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## Toy drive

USD's second annual  
toy and gift drive.  
Page 6



## Campus Card

New card to simplify  
payment on campus.  
Page 8



## Ryan Leaf

Does Leaf deserve to  
play again?  
Page 19



# Vista

University of San Diego Student Publication

December 2, 1999

Volume 36, Number 22



## sports wrap-up



## A tribute to fall Torero athletics



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# Vista

University of San Diego Student Publication

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# Contents

December 2, 1999 ■ Volume 36, Number 22

## News 5

Amnesty Making noise around the world  
Book Buyback The deadline has passed  
USD minority enrollment drops 1%  
USD professor publishes biography  
Its all about the money, Majors at USD  
Rainbow Visibility Grant promotes diversity  
University Ministry celebrates the holidays

## Society and Culture 11

USD is not enough Study abroad to find out why

## Insight 12

Going postal Postcards from Steve

## Sports 14

Ching selected to play in Hula Bowl  
Women's Basketball take tournament title  
Coach and player of the year  
O'Conner makes All-West Coast Conference Team  
Yanchulova does it again  
Volleyball travels to NCAA playoffs  
Thank goodness for Ryan Leaf

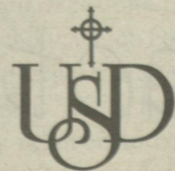
## Offbeat 20

Drumroll please  
Jane Doe Hoping to survive the millennium  
The new kid on the beat

## L.A.M.E. 23

NOFX Proves that longer is better  
Step into the realm with Roots live  
Add flavor to your life at Rapongi's

## Intramural and Recreation 26



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# Students pay homage to Douglass in reading marathon

**Robert Cromwell** • Special to the Vista

One book, one acclaimed author and a room filled with eager readers.

Most people are familiar with the idea of a marathon, but chances few have ever heard of a reading marathon. Dr. Irene Williams' "American Autobiography" class is about to change this with their *Homage to Frederick Douglass*.

The English 155 class will present *The Life and Work of Frederick Douglass By Himself* for the reading marathon or "read-in."

The book will be read aloud cover-to-cover without

stopping in "relay" style. One person reads a few pages at a time until the next person takes over from where the previous reader stopped. The "marathon" continues non-stop until the book is completed.

The 1893 autobiography, written two years before his death, reflects Douglass voice at a time when he was able to reflect on the course of his life and the condition of democracy in turn-of-the-century United States.

Billy Logan, junior, believes the homage will be beneficial to students, because

"having a voice behind the speeches and writings of Douglass makes the words so much more powerful and inspiring."

The class came up with the idea of the marathon after a discussion in which one of the students remarked that the Douglass' book should be required reading in elementary school.

The students were in awe of how well Douglass conveyed the "first-hand truth," Logan said.

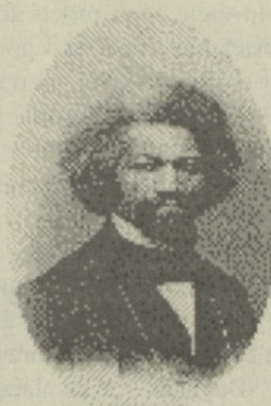
Encouraged by the students' interest in the reading, Williams told the class about

a read-in she had participated in called, *Homage to Gertrude Stein*.

Logan said the class put a lot of work into the reading marathon, which will be held next Wednesday from 3 p.m. to midnight in F190.

The students took it upon themselves to obtain funding from the provost's Enhanced Student and Faculty Interaction Initiative as well as secure the room, food and beverages for the evening.

Everyone is invited to listen to the reading, even those who do not wish to participate in reading aloud.



**Power:** Frederick Douglass's autobiography inspired English 155 to bring his ideas into voice during a reading of the work in its entirety.

## USD professor publishes biography

**Lisa Stevenson** • Staff Writer

A biography by history professor, Dr. Molly McClain, has been accepted for publication. The biography chronicles the lives of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort of England.

"This is an unusual biography, for it uses fictional techniques to tell the story of the marriage—and the highly successful political partnership—of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, two restoration aristocrats," McClain said.

McClain's book tells the story of Henry Somerset, third marquis of Worcester and first duke of Beaufort (1629-1700), whose positions of power included lord lieutenant of four regions of England and lord president of the Council in the Marches of Wales.

His wife, Mary Capel Somerset (1630-1715) was well known for her contributions to the, then new, science of botany. It

is not a rigid relation of events, but one more closely related to classic fictional novels.

"Throughout the book, I have used traditional storytelling techniques such as character development, description, flashback and (where sources permit) dialogue. This allows me to draw out the individual personalities

Biographers often get involved in the emotional lives of their subjects, myself included. In this way, we are like actors who have to use their imagination in order to play a part.

— Molly McClain

of the duke and the duchess, whom I refer to throughout as

Henry and Mary," McClain said of her literary approach toward the book.

"The book uses the experience of the duke and the duchess as a lens through which to view the profound cultural changes, which took place in the wake of the English civil war," said McClain of the main focus of her book.

It shows how society transformed itself from an age of religious warfare and spiritual uncertainty to the 'Enlightenment' in one generation and explores the motives of the two individuals who helped bring about the transformation.

The book is actually a revised version of McClain's doctorate thesis which she submitted in 1994 after four years of researching the archives in England.

Her research focused mainly on the family papers located at the home of David Robert Somerset, 11<sup>th</sup> Duke of Beaufort.

"My contact with the family was limited to an occasional lunch with the Duch-

ess—usually orange juice and a ham sandwich."

McClain decided to continue her thesis research as a biography after she developed a personal interest in telling their story and its significance to the England and the world.

"Biographers often get involved in the emotional lives of their subjects, myself included. In this way, we are like actors who have to use their imagination in order to play a part," said McClain of the dedication and work she put into her book.

"It took a great deal of emotional effort to write the stories of the duke and duchess of Beaufort. The Duke was a fortune hunter, arrogant and insensitive, who still managed to make a success of both his marriage and his political affairs.

The duchess, meanwhile, suffered frequent bouts of melancholy, which I described as a spiritual paralysis, or a "deadness" of the heart. I was deeply relieved to be able to finish the book and step out of their very troubled lives."

McClain says that the History Department has been supportive about the book. "My colleagues have been very enthusiastic. I think that they are also pleased that I no longer show up at my office at 4:00 in the morning to work on this book," McClain said.

In regards to getting her biography published McClain credits being "represented by a very good literary agent, who is responsible for contacting publishers, submitting copies of my manuscript and negotiating the contract, in return for a 15% commission on royalties earned from the sales of the book."

Although she received "quite a few rejection slips" from editors before Yale University Press accepted the biography, McClain said most liked the book, but said it was too scholarly.

McClain said the personal nature of biographies should illustrate personal characteristics, even eccentricities, in an effort to understand how people ordered their emotional lives.



# Book Buyback

## *The Deadline Has Passed*

**Jen Mayerle** • Staff Writer

The deadline for teachers to turn in their book orders for next semester has come and gone, yet many professors have not put in requests for next semester's books, meaning less money for students when the time comes to sell back their text books.

"One third of the teachers at USD have not yet filled out an order form," said the Book Department Manager Sylvia Flores.

"Buyback" takes place at the end of each semester when students can sell the books that they've used back to the bookstore for money.

If the book being sold back has been ordered by a teacher for the next semester, the student receives 50% of what he or she originally paid. If the book has not been ordered, the student only receives 20% of its original cost.

The bookstore can only buy

back books that a teacher has ordered, so even if a teacher has used the same book for the last ten years, the order still has to be placed through the bookstore.

Teachers had been notified of the October deadline and since then reminded to turn in their book orders. Even at this late date, the Bookstore would still like teachers to turn in their book orders.

The Bookstore prefers a hard copy of the order but will accept the order in just about any form. Teachers who have not turned in their orders can submit them via e-mail, phone or facsimile.

"I hope that teachers get their orders in. It's not fair for students to get less money back because the teachers are late," senior Zach Siroka said.

"Teachers should be responsible and turn in their book orders. We have to work under deadlines for tests and papers. They should also be able to follow a deadline," Sam Stremick said.

If the last one third of teachers don't turn in their book orders, students could be paying full price for a new book in the fall, when they might have been able to buy it used. Students could also be getting 30% less money back for a book that will still be used next semester.

Teachers should also note that their course packets were due on Oct. 15, because these packets require copyright permissions. Packets need to be submitted six to ten weeks before classes start. One common misunderstanding teachers have is that if they have received the copyright permission once, they don't need to get it again.

However, the copyright permission is for a one-time use only. C.J. Greene, who is in charge of the course packets, said, "Be sure to get them in so they'll be ready in time for class."

# USD toy drive kicked off

**Jesse Garcia** • Staff Writer

USD will be soon conducting its Second Annual Toy and Gift Drive to provide over five hundred underprivileged children throughout the county with gifts. Public Safety Officer Che Hill, now in his second year coordinating the event, is looking forward to putting even more smiles on children's faces this year than in the past.

"Last year, participating in the toy drive was probably the best Christmas gift I ever had," Hill said. "Seeing the smiles on the children's faces was the best reward ever."

This Christmas, their goal is to provide even more smiles and even more gifts.

The program works in partnership with the Grossmont College Police Department, Del Mar City Lifeguards, San Diego City Schools Police, Chula Vista Police, California State University Police Department, San Diego County Marshals Department and the San Diego Humane Society.

Although the toy and gift drive is the main focus of the program, it does not stop there. "Dear Santa" letters received by the U.S. Post Office are also a focus of the pro-

gram. Volunteers assist in responding to the thousands of letters received during the Christmas Holiday.

"Responding to the 'Dear Santa' letters is the best part of the toy drive because of the personal interaction that you have with the families. The volunteers actually deliver some of the gifts to the addresses of the children who wrote to Santa," Hill said.

Recipients of the donations include the Neighborhood House Association, which runs the Head Start program and the St. Vincent de Paul Center.

"St. Vincent de Paul is the biggest shelter in the county and the most known for providing services to those in need," Hill said.

Members of the USD community, the Department of Public Safety and all the partnering organizations will be delivering all donations in police and emergency vehicles.

Donations of unwrapped toys, clothes, gifts and teddy bears for all ages will be gratefully accepted.



PAULINA WESTERLIND

"The more we can collect in donations, the more we can provide for underprivileged kids who deserve a great holiday season," Hill said.

Donations can be dropped off at the Department of Public Safety, Copely Library or the Legal Research Center.

The toy drive also has a hotline phone number. Call (619) 260-5900 for further information on donations and for pick-ups.

## Letter

### *to the Editor*

When the University of San Diego calls itself a Catholic university, it accepts a dual responsibility. We expect a university to encourage curiosity, promote dialogue, and foster diversity. We expect Catholic communities to be caring places where people are nurtured.

Can the dual mission of a Catholic university be fulfilled at USD?

My optimism tells me that the answer is yes. Yet, my personal experience reminds me that finding and maintaining a proper balance in anything is very hard work.

When I attended the Nov. 15th Town Hall Meeting on the subject of Racial Diversity at USD, I was reminded of how we need to work harder here at USD to fulfill our dual mission as a Catholic university.

Student representatives on the panel spoke candidly about the frustration and pain they have experienced at USD as people of color.

We cannot ignore the experiences, sometimes painful, shared by people of diversity if we want to be a truly great university. We must work towards more open-mindedness, more curiosity, greater diversity and ever greater inclusiveness.

We cannot pledge to be a university in name but remain, in practice, close-minded and parochial. Nor can we call ourselves a Catholic community if we willfully ignore the pain and isolation suffered by any student who chooses to study here.

The word catholic was originally derived from a Greek word, *katholikos*, which meant something universal or comprehensive.

Even today, the word catholic with a lowercase "c" denotes something universal, broad in interest, or liberal in representation. That could be a wonderful description of life here at USD.

It is time to rededicate this University to the work of being a truly great institution—every bit as much catholic as it is Catholic.

Sincerely,

Edward Cottrell  
Law Student

*The Vista welcomes letters concerning all articles published. You can submit them in the Vista office, located in UC 114 B, or by emailing them to [kolimpia@acusd.edu](mailto:kolimpia@acusd.edu).*



# AMNESTY

*making noise around the world*

**Mika Buffington** • Staff Writer

AMNESTY, a political action group at USD while not well-on campus, is part of a large international organization with even larger plans.

AMNESTY is a non-profit, international organization dedicated to promoting human rights and to ending those activities which infringe upon the rights of others, such as detainment and torture of political captives and capital punishment.

USD's chapter works to promote the national organization's goals, as well as to raise awareness of these issues at USD. The group, although still small, has many actions on its agenda right now.

First, the group

writes "Urgent Action Letters" to heads of state and political officials. These letters are designed to "make noise" when something has

captives as well as many other cases where human rights are abused.

AMNESTY is currently getting ready for their annual Holiday

handed down by the national organization and full details about the cases are available from Amnesty. Every case is one in which people

cards of which there are more than 500. "The cards give hope to captive individuals and help show them that they are in our thoughts and our

if people are interested in taking a card to class to be signed by people, she would be more than willing to set up a way in which more people can get involved.

National Human Rights Day is Dec. 10 and is AMNESTY's one year anniversary at USD. The group began nearly ten years ago, but faded out and was brought back by Merrigan and other supporters last year.

The cards will be available at many locations on campus for people interested in signing them; at this Holidays Around the World event sponsored by United Front next Tuesday, as well as in front of the UC during dead hours all week.



taken place that the group doesn't approve of.

The letters also help military officials and other important figures to be aware that there are people out there watching what takes place with

Card Campaign. This campaign is designed to send a "gift of hope" to those families and people who have experienced mistreatment. These cards have been made to support six different cases. They are

have been denied the basic human rights that we take for granted, especially during this holiday season.

Jessie Merrigan, the group's President, hopes that many USD students and faculty will sign the

hearts," Merrigan said. It costs nothing to sign the cards and the postage is paid for by AS.

The cards will be sent to those in need of holiday hope during the very hard times they are enduring, Merrigan said

## USD minority enrollment drops 1%

**Daniell Taff** • Staff Writer

Recently, a town hall meeting at USD discussed the issues of campus diversity. The findings were that in the last year, USD's minority enrollment has decreased 1%.

While this might not seem substantial, it is—only 26% of USD students are minorities.

At the townhall meeting, several minorities expressed their disappointment in that USD still seems to lack sufficient diversity.

While this issue has always existed at this university, the effects of this decrease can prove even more detrimental to USD in the years to

come.

The facts stand—students raise the issue of campus diversity time and time again. If it is continually brought up, there must be a problem.

Freshmen profile's from 1999 tell a logistical side of the story. Out of 979 students admitted (not including 12 international admissions), 17 were African American, 60 Asian or Filipino, 119 Latino or Hispanic Americans, 18 Native American and 44 Other, totaling 258 freshman minority students. But the real story is told walking across campus at USD.

"You definitely no-

tice it, but you keep walking. There's nothing I can do about it," said junior Lilah Duren.

Duren brings up a good point. What has USD been doing in order to remedy this problem?

The creation of the Multicultural Center on campus is one step toward an awareness of diversity. It is dedicated to giving students of all races a place to come together.

However, many students say that it is simply a façade—something to cover up the lack of minority students at USD.

"I've been in there

once, and it wasn't like it was somewhere I'd go all the time. It's a good start, but rather than seeing a center for minorities, I'd like to see more minorities," said sophomore Mamed Abujamal.

Besides the Multicultural Center, USD has implemented the Faculty and Curriculum Diversity Program, a program geared towards educating faculty and staff members about the benefits of diversity in and out of the classroom.

The goal of FCDP is as follows: To promote cultural diversity on campus, to create a cli-

mate of inclusion, and a sense of community throughout and beyond the walls of the University of San Diego.

Not all students feel the need for diversity, though.

"I don't care—I am what I am, so I don't have to worry about anyone else," junior Gontran Tibere said.

But for others, the issue goes much deeper.

"It doesn't take a genius to see that USD is not the most diverse college around. It is unbelievable that a university with so many positive characteristics is still lacking one major component—diversity,"

senior Justin Jackson said.

Most students at the townhall meeting felt the same way. One suggestion was to expand the ethnic studies program from a minor to a major.

Other current efforts on the part of admissions include more outreach to local middle schools and high schools, as well as making the office more reflective of the student body demographically.

While the university has implemented two arenas of diversity (one for students, one for faculty), the common lack of diversity continues on this campus.



# The Campus Card

Jennifer Hatton • Staff Writer

The new campus card, which comes into effect this spring semester, will allow students to use their ID card in order to utilize more services offered on and off campus.

The campus card will mainstream services such as the ATM machine, student and academic accounting, laundry services, and will eventually be linked to USD students' debit account, according to Hollee Chapman, Vice President of Student Issues.

"The Campus card will enhance services that are currently being used with the ID card. Students' ID cards can currently be used for academic computing, the library, dining services, and Domino's Pizza. In the future, students will be able to use the card as if they were using cash at more locations on and off campus", said John McCloskey, Manager of the

campus card.

"As we progress, we will be designing a new ID card and will eventually re-card the entire community with the new ID card, but everyone will still have access to all services with the current card," McCloskey said.

The campus card will significantly benefit students at USD. The new campus card will eventually enable students to use their ID card in order to open dorm rooms and buildings.

In addition, students will not have to carry cash on campus, as everything on campus will be linked to the card. Within the following few years, the campus card may be linked to many off-campus services as well. These off-campus vendors will include restaurants and stores around the community.

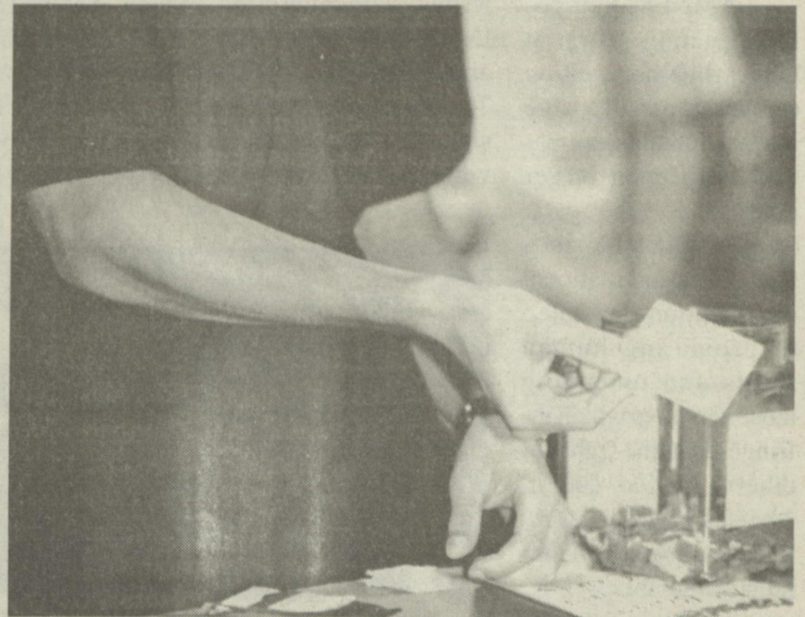
"We are planning to do a survey in the future as we

near this expansion to determine what the students want, where they go, and how they would like to be able to use this card", McCloskey said.

Other benefits of the campus card include the improvement of transactions on campus. The new system will quicken transactions and make lines on campus shorter.

"The capabilities of the system will allow us to expand to areas that now require receipts or payments made somewhere else on campus. We hope that by utilizing this new system, students will be able to complete transactions in one place at the time of the transaction," McCloskey said.

When using the campus card in the future, students



PAULINA WESTERLIND

**Swip it:** The new campus card will eventually enable students to use their ID card in order to open dorm rooms and buildings.

must remember that it does not work in the same way as a credit card. Students will not be able to charge items to their account. The amount of money being used must already be on the card.

"Since these are all pre-paid services, students will have funds in various accounts which they can use to make purchases or payments as they need or wish to," McCloskey said.

## It's All About the Money, Majors at USD

Jennifer Ohlen • Staff Writer

After paying so much to get a degree and go through the stress of completing all the work that it takes, most students are ready to enter the work force and begin earning a salary. Naturally we want to major in something that will get us there the fastest.

As we enter our freshman year many students panic to find the right major and settle on the first one that sparks our interest.

Most students will change their minds halfway through their college career, so this approach hardly seems desirable. Rather, as Dean Gump advises, we should "come in open-minded."

It is beneficial to talk to faculty and get as much information as possible about what interests you.

While it is a good idea to get started on the requirements that are necessary for each major, time will be wasted in this if you end up stuck in something you don't really want to do.

Most major requirements here at USD can be fulfilled even if you don't start on them your freshman year. Some majors are more popular than others because they do require extensive work.

For example, many of the science oriented majors have a lot of prerequisites that can only realistically be fulfilled if begun early.

It becomes extremely difficult to complete the major the further along one gets though college. Therefore there aren't a lot of people who switch over, as often happens

in non-science majors.

USD is a liberal arts school, and does not typically draw the type of student interested in physical sciences. Students are generally coming to study the humanities and social sciences. This again affects the popularity of such majors.

For a long time business has been the predominant major of choice at USD and it continues to remain on top. However, there has been a dramatic increase of interest in the field of Communications, now considered impacted with 350 people majoring in it.

Dr. Williamson, Department Chair of Communications, acknowledges a societal "reliance on multimedia" and believes that this could be one of the reasons so many are at-

tracted to the major.

There are so many opportunities available for those with a degree in the field of Communications, ranging from marketing to public relations. Also, students majoring in the field can often gain valuable experience in the many internships that are offered to USD students.

Of course there is the notion that majors in fields such as these are easy and require less work and commitment than those that have a 3-hour lab with just about every course. However, be warned that communications, as well as the other social science majors here, have their own rigid requirements, and can be just as demanding.

So what really draws people to the major? Most

likely the fact that one can walk into a good paying, high level position right out of college.

Rather than having to go on to years more of school before seeing a decent paycheck, most Communications majors can find well paid, rewarding positions with a bachelor's degree. With the thought of paying back student loans hanging over our heads, this is an enticing option.

So, as is the case in just about all of our decisions these days, money has a great influence on choosing a major at USD. Of course one must still have interest in the area in order to be able to commit to it for so long.

However, the reality of the situation is that for most of us, "It's all about the money."



# Rainbow Visibility Grant promotes diversity

**Mika Buffington** • Staff Writer

Gay and lesbian issues will now be addressed increasingly on USD's campus due to The Rainbow Visibility Grant.

The grant was given to USD through the Irvine Foundation in response to a call for proposals about promoting diversity.

Evelyn Kirkley, a member of the Rainbow Visibility executive committee can remember a time not very long ago, when PRIDE (a club for homosexuals on campus) wasn't even able to have public announcements about meetings, because it wasn't considered safe enough for those attending.

USD was awarded a portion of the funds from the grant, and through

the USD Cultural Competencies Project team, allotments of the large grant were given to groups on campus.

The Rainbow Visibility Project was given a little more than \$16,000 for the 1999-2000 school year. The project's goal is to raise awareness about gay and lesbians, as well as to promote education about homosexuality on the USD campus.

Kirkley has seen a big change, not only in PRIDE, but in the climate at USD. She said USD is becoming a place where it is safe to acknowledge that we do have a diverse culture and that homosexuality is part of that diversity along with race, gender, and religion.

Homosexuality is

not included in the Non-Discrimination Statement for USD. The proposal advocating the addition of homosexuality has been turned down three times. Kirkley said that USD has been remarkably open and willing to help as the Rainbow Visibility Grant has begun to take action.

The grant has helped fund five different activities promoting the goal of education and awareness.

Part of the funds went to pay for the Betty Degeneres Speech last month which was co-sponsored by many student organizations.

The second part of the grant went to sponsor a faculty workshop last August. The workshop targeted practical ways to work on accep-

tance of gays and lesbians in our campus community.

Gay and lesbian students from USD who spoke to 60 members of the faculty about their experiences and a panel of guest speakers discussed the academic component.

As a result there is room in the course schedule to incorporate a new course dealing with homosexuality, or to integrate it into existing courses.

The third component of the grant is the university colloquium, which consists of twelve members including students, faculty, alumni and administration.

The group meets monthly for dinner to explore the relationship of Catholic USD and the

needs of the gay and lesbian community on campus.

For reasons of confidentiality, no names are released, but at the end of the semester, the group will put together a report about what the current situation at USD is in regards to the homosexual community.

The fourth part of the grant was a \$2,000 allotment to the library and media center to buy materials about gays and lesbians. This is an important part of the grant because without it, USD would not have had funds available to make such purchases.

The final part of the grant is called the "Rainbow Educators." This is a group of 11 people who receive special training in areas of

sexual orientation, gender, race and ethnicity in order to make presentations to classes groups on campus.

The "Rainbow Educators" have made one presentation already and are currently working on a presentation for sororities and fraternities on campus.

Dr. Kirkley, who is also a professor of Theological and Religious studies at USD, has high hopes for the campus and believes. She said Travis Vowles and Todd Gloria, who are also part of the committee for the grant, have been very helpful and support throughout this process.

The Rainbow Visibility Grant is helping USD make headway in the area of sexual acceptance.

## University Ministry celebrates the holidays

**Daniell Taff** • Staff Writer

The holidays provide a time for families to come together, an opportunity for people to reach out and a celebration of religion and spirituality. University Ministry offers students and faculty the chance to participate in religious ceremonies regardless of denomination.

University Ministry will be hosting a variety of masses throughout the month. The Advent Penance Service on Dec. 6 will be held in the Immaculata at 7 p.m.

Two Guadalupe Masses will be held in the UC, one in Spanish

on Dec. 10 at noon and one in English on Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. Prior to the second mass, the University Ministry is hosting a performance by Native American dancers at the Colachis Plaza.

In addition to the holiday masses, a mid-year Graduation Mass will be held in Founders Chapel on Dec. 16 at 3 p.m.

University Ministry's mission is to

"develop and support an active Catholic faith community, foster spiritual enrichment and ecumenical outreach for

**Although USD is a Catholic University, students do not need to be Catholic in order to participate.**

students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni; while helping students to integrate faith and life, and encouraging

leadership through community outreach and service."

Although USD is a Catholic University, students do not need to be Catholic in order to participate.

University Ministry offers several interfaith opportunities. The USD All Faith Service is held on the second Friday of the second semester of the school year.

This service helps us all celebrate the many traditions that students

here might participate in. And in doing so we bring the entire USD community together," said Father Alejandro, Coordinator for University Ministry.

There is also an Inter-Faith Chapel on Campus, which is located in the fourth chapel on the left in the Immaculata Church.

There is ample room, and students are welcome to practice other forms of prayer there. Also, there is normally a Passover Seder Meal offered to Jewish students of the USD community.

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Founders 190

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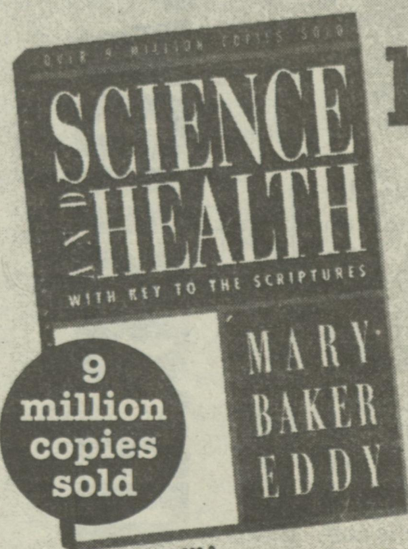
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# USD is not enough

## Study abroad to find out why

**Allie Lunden** • Society and Culture Editor

College is the time in your life when you are able to see the wonders of the world with no major commitments holding you back, so grab your school bag and backpack and study abroad.

There are two different ways to study abroad: the USD affiliated programs and the non-affiliated programs. The USD affiliated programs offered by the College of Arts and Sciences include: Austria (Vienna), England (Oxford and London), France (Aix-en-Provence, Avignon), Germany (Freiburg), Italy (Florence), Japan (Nagoya), and Spain (Toledo and Madrid).

These USD affiliated programs have already been reviewed and deemed acceptable so the process is a little easier. There are several different steps of academic preparation listed in the USD Foreign Study Guide. First, select the program of interest, making sure to meet G.P.A. requirements as well as foreign language requirements. Then, pick up course listings and talk with your academic advisor in addition to whomever is in charge of the selected program.

Because the program is affiliated with USD, there is no need to petition for a transfer of credit or to request a leave of absence by the registrar.

The Office of Financial Aid Services must be notified of students studying abroad, and, if applicable, the Housing Office must be notified to relinquish existing housing as well as make arrangements to reserve on campus housing upon returning to USD.

The Office of the Registrar sends students studying abroad class reservation materials for the next semester, but only for those studying in an affiliated program.

Most importantly, tuition is paid to USD at the full time, on campus attendance rate. Students must be aware of other fees they are responsible for, though.

"There is a nice safety net of transferability of the courses in these already approved programs," Martha Ponce of the Foreign Study Office said. "USD has already investigated these programs in the areas of housing, teaching and the facilities. It is also a benefit that financial aid from USD is automatically applicable. Not to mention we are prepared to help with your parents."

The non-affiliated programs also have helpful steps listed in the USD Foreign Study Guide. First, select the program of interest, again noting the G.P.A. requirements. Next, contact the institution that sponsors the program to obtain the course catalog and application.

Then, select courses (with alternates) with an academic advisor. Complete that transfer of credit forms, obtaining both your advisor's signature and the appropriate department chair's signature. Also remember to get the Dean's signature. All of this must be done before leaving. If it is not done, students may not gain the credit for courses already taken and paid for.

Next, complete a Leave of Absence form and notify the Office of Financial Aid Services. Once again, notify the Housing Office if applicable. Consult personnel at the Registrar to make arrangements for reservation of classes before returning to USD and follow the instructions of the sponsoring institution regarding payment of tuition and fees.

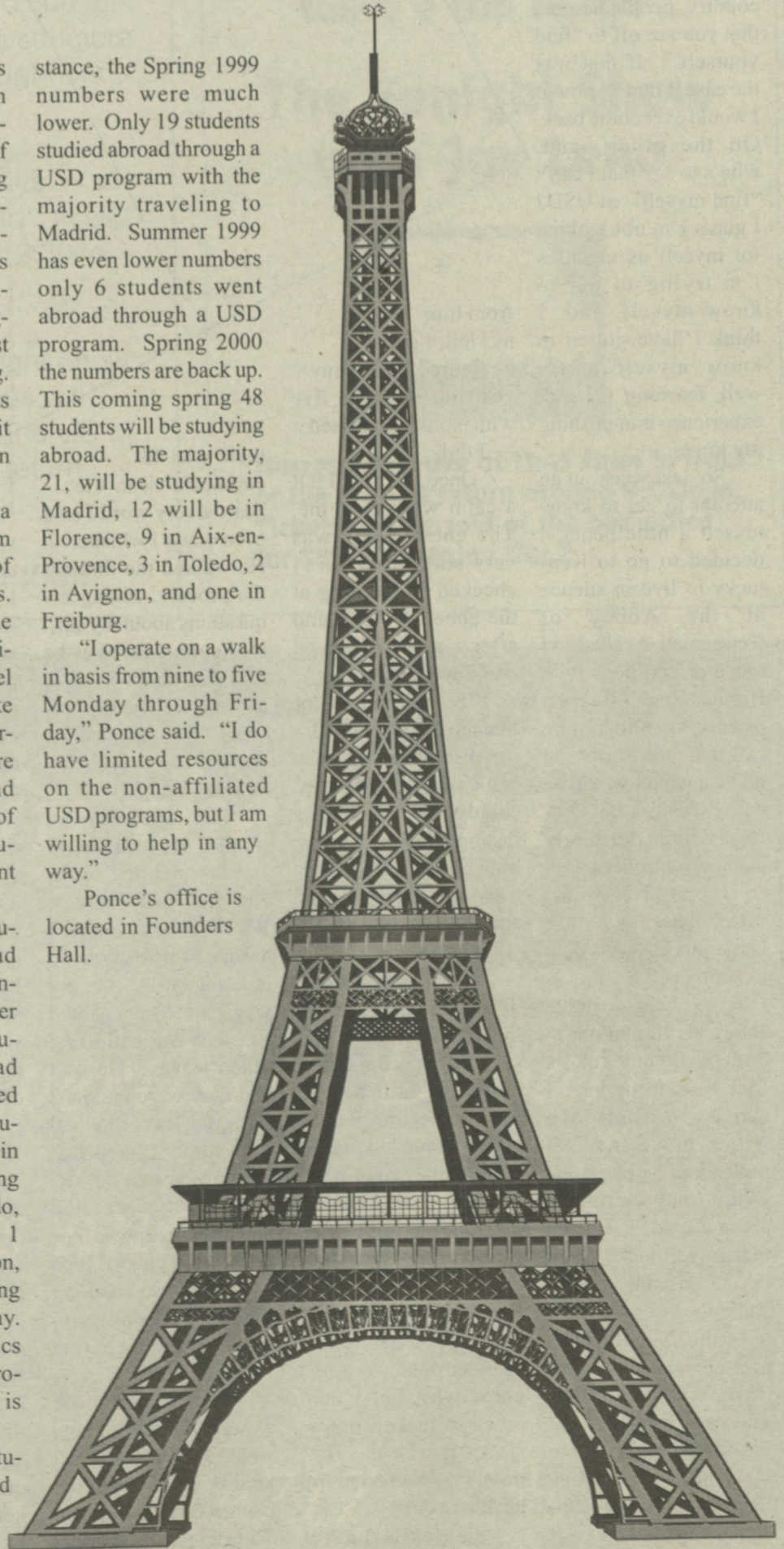
The number of students studying abroad this year at USD is abundant. This fall semester there are 46 USD students studying abroad through USD affiliated programs. Of these students: 25 are studying in Madrid, 12 are studying in Florence, 3 in Toledo, 3 in Aix-in Provence, 1 is studying in Avignon, and 1 student is studying in Freiburg, Germany. USD offers no statistics of the nonaffiliated programs because there is no tabulated record.

The number of students studying abroad in the past have been much lower. For in-

stance, the Spring 1999 numbers were much lower. Only 19 students studied abroad through a USD program with the majority traveling to Madrid. Summer 1999 has even lower numbers only 6 students went abroad through a USD program. Spring 2000 the numbers are back up. This coming spring 48 students will be studying abroad. The majority, 21, will be studying in Madrid, 12 will be in Florence, 9 in Aix-en-Provence, 3 in Toledo, 2 in Avignon, and one in Freiburg.

"I operate on a walk in basis from nine to five Monday through Friday," Ponce said. "I do have limited resources on the non-affiliated USD programs, but I am willing to help in any way."

Ponce's office is located in Founders Hall.





# GOING POSTAL

## postcards from steve

Steve Bramucci • Vista Correspondent

When you drop out of school to travel the country, people assume that you are off to "find yourself." If that was the case, I don't know if I would ever come back. On the other hand, who's to say that I can't "find myself" at USD? I guess I'm not looking for myself as much as I'm trying to get to know myself, and I think I have gotten to know myself pretty well, learning through experience and pushing my limits.

So, last week, in an attempt to get to know myself a little better, I decided to go to Kentucky to live in silence at the Abbey of Gethsemani. I called and made reservations with Brother Rene. It was a twenty second phone call, and afterward I had no idea what I would be doing, besides not talking (which definitely pushes my limits).

I arrived in Louisville, Kentucky on a Greyhound. According to Brother Rene, Louisville was "close" to the abbey. It turned out to be about 90 miles close. Left with no options, I started to hitch hike which made me feel pretty cool — like some weary road warrior. In about a hour, I realized that in Kentucky hitch hiking basically means walking.

Finally, I was picked up by Mike Carney, a travelling salesman who was going hunting right next to the abbey. Mike drove me to the door and insisted that I take cash

from him as I left, I guess he figured any twenty year old going to live with monks must need it — I did.

Once I arrived, I felt a calm wash over me. The entire place was very still, peaceful. I checked in (staying at the abbey is free), and after a much deserved nap, I went to dinner.

The food was a lot like the caf, only no Oscar. People at the abbey took only what they could eat. They weren't fasting; they just knew how much they needed. I admired that, but still ended up wasting half of what I took.

After my first silent dinner, I went to see Father Matthew, the chaplain. He called me into his office as if he had been expecting me. I was the youngest person at the abbey by a good twenty years, but he didn't act surprised. We chatted for a few minutes, mostly small talk. He had a hard time hearing me, and he seemed preoccupied. I don't know why, but I then asked to make Confession. It was the first thing that popped to my head.

Suddenly, Father

Matthew was focused and clear. He heard every word I said even when I whispered. He walked me through the process, asking me questions about my sins. He kept his focus as he told me about his life and asked about my passions. For penance, he sent me to a speech that he was giving.

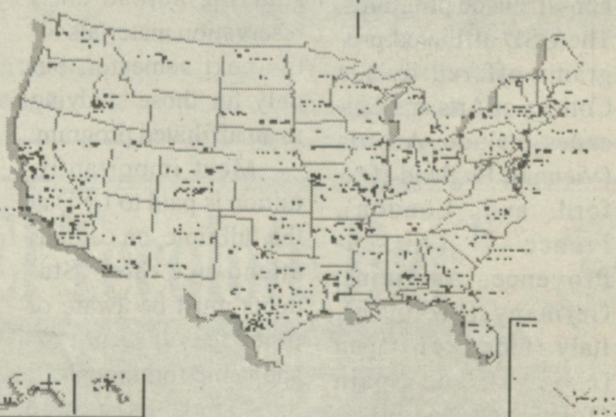
The speech was simple. He read poetry and commented on it, and he told stories. When it was over I headed back to my room in good spirits. On my way, I met a man named J.C. who was collecting fallen leaves. He said that they were the most beautiful leaves he had ever seen. I liked J.C. right away, anyone who can get that excited about leaves knows how to live. We chatted for a few minutes, breaking the rules. Soon we retired to our separate rooms.

It was eight o'clock at night. I didn't know what to do, so I was just kind of sat in my room being really, really quiet. The silence in the room

was calming and I was able to ease into my thoughts. I wrote and tried to pray which praying didn't work, and discouraged, I fell asleep.

The next day I went for a walk around the property, which is about 100 acres. After a mile or so I came to a clearing that was full of grasshoppers. Every barefoot step I took sent about twenty of them flying. Above me hawks circled, letting the wind carry them — gliding giant figure eights in the sky.

A wind came up, and the trees that bordered the clearing began to tremble. It was a nice breeze, refreshing, the kind you might not even notice in the city. But it was just enough, and the leaves started to fall off of the trees and see-saw down to earth. It was so quiet you could almost hear them "pop" as they let go of the branch. It



was the most spiritual moment in my very unspiritual life, standing in the middle of a field with these golden sunbursts falling all around me. I got the chills, and for the first time in years, I prayed.

In the midst of my epiphany, J.C. strolled out of the woods. We talked in hushed tones about the leaves and the grasshoppers and the hawks. He asked if he could tell me a secret. Of course I didn't know how to react to a grown man asking me if I would listen to his secret. I agreed.

J.C. told me that he loved life more than he ever had before. I smiled thinking this was all, but he continued. "I'm dy-

ing of cancer."

I didn't veil my shock very well, but it was okay with him. We talked a little bit about what he would leave behind: a wife, two kids, the leaves. He told me that it was liberating to be able to live without fear or boundaries. He said he was trying to go out with a bang and he repeated that he was happy. Then he said good-bye and left.

I spent the rest of my time at the abbey thinking about J.C., though we didn't talk much after that. The last thing J.C. said to me was, "Life is beautiful".

He was right, and so are the leaves and the grasshoppers and the hawks.



## AS This Week

### **Today, Dec. 2**

Alternative Christmas Gift Fair in front of the UC @ 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Thursday, Dec. 2**

Senior Happy Hour @ Buffalo Joe's  
From 9p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

### **Dec.6 through Dec. 10**

Violence Against Women Awareness Week

### **Monday, Dec. 6**

Good Morning Commuters from 7:30a.m. to 10:30a.m. outside the parking structure  
free coffee and doughnuts

### **Tuesday, Dec.7**

"Celebrating Holidays Around the World" in UC Forum A from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m.

Trip to see the Tonight Show with Jay Leno bus will leave in front of the UC at 11:45 a.m. and return around 9:00p.m.

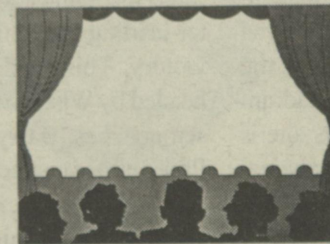
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# Ching selected to play in Hula Bowl

*Hawaii native goes home to end his collegiate career*

**Jeff Seeker** • Sports Editor

For USD senior, Dylan Ching, this is the perfect ending to a storybook career. Ching, who is without question the greatest wide receiver in Torero history, will play what may be the final football game of his life in the very same place it all began. At home.

On January 22, Ching will take part in the Hula Bowl which will be played at the Maui War Memorial Stadium in Maui, Hawaii. This site is just a few miles from Lahaina, Maui which is where Ching grew up.

"I'm just happy I made it," Ching said, "that was half the battle. I don't really care about the game, just being there is an honor."

The Hula Bowl is an annual all-star event which features the top collegiate football players in the country. The thing that makes Ching's se-

lection so remarkable is the fact that most of the players competing in the game are from Division I schools. Ching is one of the select few on the roster who play in Division I-AA.

Last year's contest featured current New Orleans Saint and former Heisman Trophy winner, Ricky Williams. Williams captured the game's MVP honor after leading the South Squad to a victory. This year's game will be headed by Wisconsin and Tennessee coaches, Barry Alvarez and Phil Fulmer respectively.

"I'm really excited for the school," Ching said, "it brings a lot of good recognition."

Ching's selection comes as the result of four outstanding years at USD. In his time at Alcala Park, Ching has managed to shatter every receiving record in the book. He holds career marks in catches, receiving yards, and touchdowns. He also holds the record for catches in a

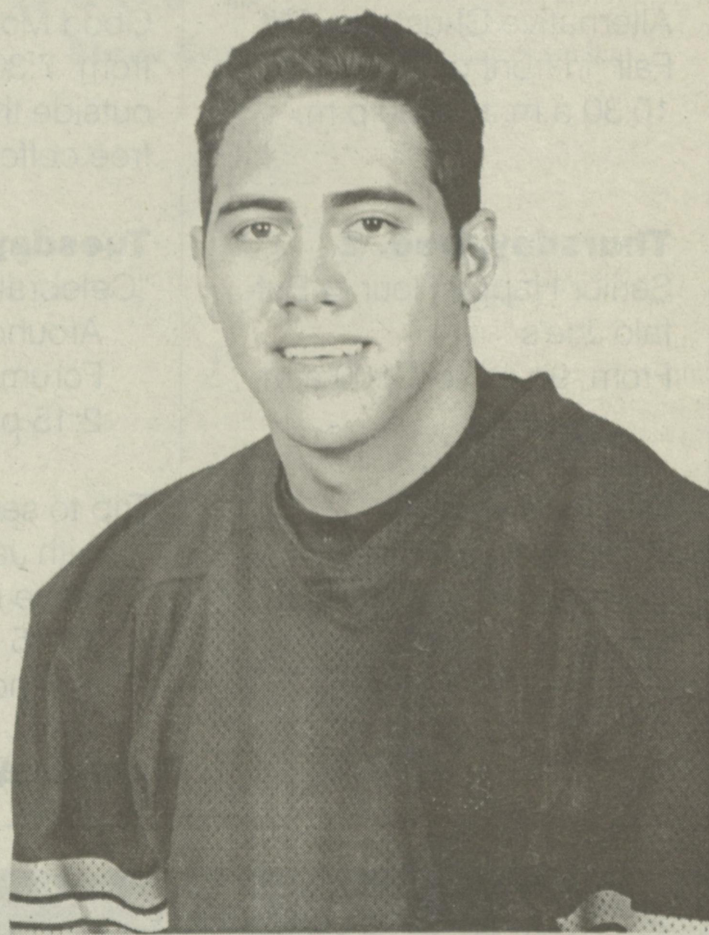
game(10), touchdowns in a game(4), as well as touchdowns in a season(12).

Ching is a three-time 1st Team All-PFL selection. He has led the conference in receiving in each of the last three seasons and this year, caught 54 passes for 731 yards and two touchdowns.

This game will mark Ching's first appearance on the Hawaiian Islands since his days as an all-state football and baseball player at Kamehameha High School. He is expecting a large personal entourage to make the trip, many of whom will be fellow USD teammates.

"I'm so excited just to be able to play in front of my family and friends," Ching said. "I can't even pay attention in class, I've just been daydreaming."

On January 22, Ching's dreams will become reality as he closes the final chapter of his football career.



SPORTS INFORMATION

## Women's Basketball take tournament title

**Jeff Seeker** • Sports Editor

The USD Women's Basketball team evened their record at 2-2 this weekend after capturing the title in their own USD Masry & Vititoe Classic. The Toreros opened the tournament with a win over Quinnipiac 85-73 and beat Dayton in the championship 54-51.

The Toreros were led by the stellar play of guard Susie Erpelding who was named the Tournament MVP. Erpelding, a fifth-year senior, combined for 46 points in the two games, including a key three-point basket late in the championship game to propel the Toreros to a win.

These victories were especially important to USD after opening the season with consecu-

tive losses to Long Beach St. and Minnesota.

"I was very pleased with the way we played," sophomore guard Robyn Fortney said. "We expected to win the tournament, and we didn't settle for anything less"

This no-lose attitude was clearly displayed on Saturday night as the Toreros found themselves down 47-46 with under a minute remaining. With the shot clock winding down, it was Erpelding's three-pointer that put USD up for good.

Also turning in a strong performance for USD was All-WCC forward Jessica Gray. Gray, who joined Erpelding on the All-Tournament team, scored 11 points in

the championship game to go along with eight rebounds. She was equally as impressive in the first game scoring 13 points and grabbing eight rebounds.

Gray's powerful inside presence was a big factor early in the final game as the Toreros led 26-22 at halftime. Freshman Kerri Nakamoto's three-point basket in the opening minutes gave USD a lead they would not relinquish until early in the second half.

The opening round win followed the same pattern. USD led big at the intermission by a score of 49-34 behind Erpelding's 18 first-half points. Quinnipiac, however, surmounted an impressive comeback outscoring USD 36-39 in the game's final 20 min-

utes. The Toreros were able to hold on for the victory.

"We wanted to come out of the tournament 2-0," Fortney said. "We did by playing our hearts out."

USD is looking to build on these victories as they prepare for their upcoming games against San Jose St. and Pacific this coming weekend. The Toreros, however, will be without the services of starting point guard Melissa Glazebrook. It was learned earlier this week that the 5'8 Glazebrook has been playing the entire season with a stress fracture in her leg. It is uncertain how long she will be out.

Vista



McFadden and O'Connor named coach and player of the year

Nicole Grieco • Assistant Sports Editor

The USD men's soccer team received good news after the 1999 All-West Coast Conference Team was announced. Torero head coach Seamus McFadden was named

Co-WCC Coach of the Year and, senior midfielder Brian O'Connor was selected co-WCC Player of the Year.

Coach McFadden, who also earned the award last year, now owns six WCC coaching honors in his 21 years at USD. O'Connor, who had three goals and four assists for the conference champion Toreros, is the fifth USD player chosen as the league's best. O'Connor is also the lone Torero to be named to the WCC First Team.

USD players earning All-WCC Second Team honors include senior forward Levi Parker, who is also the teams top scorer (8 goals and 6 assist), senior midfielder Antonio Gonzales (2 goals and 1 assist), and freshman defender Garrett Turk.

A trio of seniors received Honorable Mention All-WCC picks: defender Erin O'Connor, forward Mike Marvil, and goalie Matt Hall.

Coach McFadden finished up his 21st season guiding the Torero soccer fortunes. This season, he

coached the Toreros (14-4) to their third West Coast Conference title and seventh trip to the NCAA Tournament since 1990.

The #12 ranked Toreros drew first round action on the road against #3 UCLA. The game ended in a Torero loss and a close to their 1999 season. Despite the loss, the Toreros have many of things to be proud of; their 14 wins are the most since the 1993 season.

USD has had a spectacular run during the 1990's. Coach McFadden led his teams to seven NCAA appearances, won three West Coast Conference titles and posted nine winning seasons (eight consecutive).

McFadden coached five NSCAA All-Americans, five Players of the Year and two Freshman of the Year. He has been awarded six WCC Coach of the Year titles. During his reign, the Toreros recorded 25 First Team All-WCC picks, nineteen Second Team All-WCC picks, 21 WCC Honorable Mention picks and a winning record of 128-60-13.

The decade was highlighted in 1992 when the Toreros advanced all the way to the NCAA Tournament final game where they were the national runner-up.

O'Connor -- only Torero on the First Team All-West Coast Conference Team

Dominic Mucciaccito • Sports Editor

For the first time in four years, Toreros seniors Mike Marvil, Levi Parker, and Antonio Gonzales all made it through the season relatively injury free while Mr. Reliable, Brian O'Connor, wound up taking his turn amongst the wounded. So who winds up being named WCC Player of the Year? O'Connor does, of course.

The voting is done by the eight conference coaches who are not permitted to vote for their own players. The fact that midfielder Brian O'Connor is the CO-WCC Player of the Year means that over the past four years he has earned the respect of his opponents. Although he missed multiple games in '99 due to a torn Lateral Collateral Ligament, O'Connor came back to lead the team to their second consecutive league championship and an NCAA tournament berth.

From there the Toreros exited quickly losing 4-1 to third ranked UCLA, but O'Connor, as well as the five other seniors, has left their mark on the USD soccer program. These seniors have been the heart and soul of a team that has achieved two conference titles, two trips to the NCAA tournament, and a 14 win season-the most since 1993.

O'Connor becomes the fifth player in USD history to be rewarded as the best in his league. While serving as team co-captain with Antonio Gonzales, O'Connor sought out to give his all and lead by example. It was O'Connor and Gonzales who delivered many fiery pre-game speeches and



SPORTS INFORMATION

pushed the team to new highs.

"We just talked about going out there and knowing we can win and bringing the intensity right from the beginning. Sometimes we talked about guarding against overlooking our opponent by being over confident. It's hard. As captains you're keeping the freshmen from getting

nervous. I was a freshmen and I know I was real nervous. Especially for the first half of the season you've got to prepare them for the games." O'Connor said.

see **O'Connor** on pg 19

First Team

Alex Akerjordet	USF	Sr.	F
Conor Casey	Portland	Fr.	F
Brian Ching	Gonzaga	Jr.	F
Eric Denton	Santa Clara	Sr.	D
Adam Eyre	Santa Clara	Sr.	D
Rusty Johnson	Santa Clara	So.	GK
Jason Kuska	Gonzaga	Jr.	F
Nick Marcum	St. Mary's	So.	MF
Brian O'Connor	USD	Sr.	MF
Arturo Torres	LMU	Fr.	F
Brian Winters	Portland	Sr.	MF

Second Team

Andre Childers	LMU	Sr.	D
Matt Domingo	Portland	So.	MF
J.C. Fernandez	Gonzaga	Sr.	D
Antonio Gonzales	USD	Sr.	MF
Kelly Gray	Portland	Fr.	F
Per Christian Larsen	USF	Sr.	MF
Andres Murriagui	LMU	Fr.	MF
Levi Parker	USD	Sr.	F
Steve Reardon	St. Mary's	Sr.	GK
Jeff Stewart	Santa Clara	So.	D
Garrett Turk	USD	Fr.	D

USD Honorable Mention

Matt Hall  
Erin O'Connor  
Mike Marvil

Players of the Year  
Brian O'Connor, USD  
Conor Casey, Portland

Coaches of the Year  
Seamus McFadden, USD  
Paul Krumpe, LMU

Defender of the Year  
Adam Eyre, Santa Clara

Freshman of the Year  
Conor Casey, Portland



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# Yanchulova does it again

Jeff Seeker • Sports Editor

USD Women's Volleyball player, Petia Yanchulova, has added yet another award to her already overcrowded trophy case. Just last week, Yanchulova was named the 1999 West Coast Conference Player of the Year for the second consecutive season. Along with this honor, the senior outside hitter was also recognized as the conference's Defensive Player of the Year.

"It is a really big honor just as it was last year," Yanchulova said. "But there are so many other players on our team honored too."

What Yanchulova is referring to is the four other Torero's who were selected to all-conference teams. They were senior Katie Lindquist (1st Team), sophomore Debra Robertson (2nd Team), junior Adrian Frediani, and freshman Noel Frohman (both honorable mention).

Despite the strong supporting cast, Yanchulova has without a doubt been the Torero's leader throughout the season. This Thursday, however, Yanchulova will face what may be the toughest

test of her outstanding four-year career when the 25th-ranked Toreros travel to Pacific Northwest to begin play in the NCAA Division I Volleyball Championships.

USD's first game will take place at the University of Nebraska against James Madison. If they win, they will face the winner of the game between the third-seeded Nebraska Cornhuskers and Davidson.

"I'm very excited to play in Nebraska," Yanchulova said. "It will be a very long trip, but if we play at our highest level I think we can win."

Playing at the highest level is something Yanchulova has done throughout her volleyball career. Before coming to USD, she was a member of the Bulgarian Youth National Team. In high school, she also competed for the Levski Club Team where she was named MVP her junior year.

Since arriving on the Alcala Park campus, Yanchulova has broken nearly every Torero offensive record on her way to becoming the most distinguished player in school history. Some of her accolades include being named West Coast Conference Freshman of the Year, as well as 2nd

Team all-conference in her first two seasons.

Her junior year, however, proved to be her coming out party. In 1998, Yanchulova averaged a league leading 6.0 kills and 3.73 digs per game. Not only was she named WCC Player of the Year, she was also a member of the AVCA District VIII Team. To top that off, she was recognized as a Division I First Team All-American after ranking second among NCAA Division I leaders in kills per game.

This year has been no different. In her 1999 campaign, Yanchulova was once again amongst the league leaders in several categories. She leads the conference with 4.31 digs per game, and ranks second behind Loyola Marymount's, Sarah McFarland, in kills. Yanchulova also aver-



SPORTS INFORMATION

aged 0.44 service aces per contest, which places her second behind teammate Katie Lindquist (0.50).

Yanchulova also helped lead the Toreros to their fourth consecu-

tive season with double-digit wins in conference play. This year's 11-3 record was good

see **Yanchulova** on pg 19

## Volleyball travels to NCAA playoffs

Jeff Seeker • Sports Editor

The 25th-ranked Torero Women's Volleyball Team will begin its quest towards an NCAA title, as they travel to Nebraska to take on James Madison in the opening round of the NCAA playoffs on Thursday, December 2.

The Torero's were granted a bid in the tournament after finishing 22-5 overall and 11-3 in West Coast Conference play. This will be USD's fifth trip to the NCAA Division I Championships, and their seventh straight trip to the post-season. USD was one of four teams selected to the tournament from the West Coast Conference. They will be joined by Pepperdine, Santa Clara, and Loyola

Marymount.

The Torero's, who finished second in league play, have their work cut out for them. This is the first time they have ever faced James Madison, who ended up with a 26-6 record. If USD can get an opening round win, they will face the winner of #3-seeded Nebraska Cornhuskers and Davidson.

"We're (the team) really excited," outside hitter Adrian Frediani said. "Nebraska fans are really into volleyball and there should be a large crowd. I think we have a very good chance to win."

USD will once again be led by senior All-American Petia Yanchulova who was recently named the West Coast Conference Player of the Year for a sec-

ond straight season, as well as the 1999 WCC Defender of the Year. Yanchulova became only the seventh WCC player to be honored on the first or second team all conference four straight years.

Joining Yanchulova on the First Team All-WCC was senior setter Katie Lindquist. This was the Huntington Beach native's second straight selection to the team. This past season, Lindquist broke the Toreros all-time assist record previously held by Shannon Mutch.

Also receiving WCC Honors were sophomore middle blocker Debra Robertson, who was named to the second team. Frediani and freshman Noel Frohman earned Honorable Mention.

**Player of the Year**  
Petia Yanchulova, USD

**Defender of the Year**  
Petia Yanchulova, USD

**Freshman of the Year**  
Stacy Rouwenhorst, Pepperdine

**Coach of the Year**  
Nina Matthies, Pepperdine

### First Team

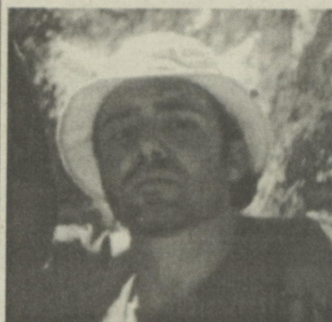
Petia Yanchulova	USD	Sr.	OH
Ynez Carrasco	Santa Clara	Jr.	OH
Jamie Hill	Pepperdine	Sr.	MB
Katie Lindquist	USD	Sr.	S
Melissa Plass	Pepperdine	So.	S
Sarah McFarland	LMU	Jr.	OH

### Second Team

Heather Dill	St. Mary's	So.	OH
Roz Pelayo	Santa Clara	Jr.	S
Debra Robertson	USD	So.	MB
Stacy Rouwenhorst	Pepperdine	Fr.	OH
Melissa Snow	Pepperdine	So.	OH
Brook Terhune	Santa Clara	So.	MB



# Thank goodness for Ryan Leaf



**Dominic Mucciato** • Sports Editor

In the spirit of the holidays it is only fitting that we give thanks and praise to those who have been good to us. Although he went unmentioned in our family's pre-meal Thanksgiving prayer, I would like to take this opportunity to say, 'thanks for Ryan Leaf and his childish antics which never fail to bring a smile to my face.'

I'd also like to go on the record in stating that I hope San Diego Chargers quarterback Ryan Leaf never plays for another team. I hope he spends his entire career in, or more recently out of a San Diego Chargers uniform. Call me crazy, but I can't help but be thankful to the football gods for delivering Ryan Leaf to us.

This kid is the best thing to happen to the city of San Diego since Sea World! He drinks, he parties, he gambles, and he cusses out his boss, all the while getting paid millions for his effort, or lack thereof. He has taken the term 'ungrateful' to a whole new level and it really has been fun to watch.

What can we be certain of to this point? For starters, there is a lot of pent up aggression in the guy. So far Leaf has shouted obscenities at reporters, team trainers, the general manager and some unfortunate locals in Washington. On that occasion while returning to Washington State University, to donate scholarship funds, Leaf became belligerent at a tavern and boasted of his ability to buy the fathers of his former classmates. *What*

*a kiddier!*

Let's see, what else has he done? There was the time he lied about participating in an off-season training program and refused to cooperate with Charger's trainers while rehabilitating an injured shoulder. *Well, nobody's perfect.*

Most recently he has been suspended for "conduct unbecoming" and allegedly breached his contract by participating in a recreational flag football game. *On a positive note, he did throw a touchdown pass.*

When he is not busy kicking the gift horse in the mouth Ryan likes to express remorse and issue public declarations of his sorrow. Leaf spends more time issuing apologies than President Clinton! This guy should be a character in the World Wrestling Federation or at least *South Park*.

Speaking of media exposure, how come he doesn't have any endorsements? This guy could endorse anything from beer to blue jeans. *If Latrell Sprewell is the American Dream then Ryan Leaf is at least the American Dream -part 2-waiting to happen. Well, sort of.*

At the very least Leaf could endorse aspirin. I've already written the commercial. It goes something like this... Leaf could be out on the town causing general havoc by spitting on couples as they walk by, or running old ladies over in the cross walk. Then it could cut to Leaf beating up a heckler, then shouting at

Chargers General Manager Bobby Beathard, "I hate you. You've ruined my life!" Then I'd cut to Beathard as he sighs behind the sanctuary of his desk. The voice-over would read, "Got a headache? Try Advil Maximum Strength."

Anyone in the painkilling industry is welcome to use my idea for a meager fee. Getting Leaf to cooperate with you would be your problem after that.

While no one else is will-

They eat, they drink, they put on their pants one leg at a time and every once in a while they let us down. Subtract the "once in a while" from that statement and you've got Ryan Leaf.

Ryan Leaf is the perfect message to anyone who takes football too seriously: Athletes are no different than anyone else. They drink, they eat, they put on their pants one leg at a time, and every once in a while they let us down.

Why should Ryan Leaf be any more accountable for his shortcomings just because he gets paid to throw a ball? Charles Barkley received copious amounts of criticism for stating bluntly, "I am not a role model," but he was right. He plays organized sports and lives under intense media scrutiny, but he does not raise your children. He is no more of a role model than a parent or a teacher.

So if an outspoken personality like Barkley is not a role model then how could we have ever expected Ryan Leaf to be? Instead of condemning him for not being perfect why doesn't

someone take notice of his commitment to immaturity? I mean at least he is consistent. He is a jerk, all of the time.

In the process he is great theater. Let's face it, the ongoing saga of the pampered, overpaid enigma fascinates the city. The fans hate him. The press hates him. His own teammates want nothing to do with him. *Ru-*

*mor has it his mother loves him.*

He can't get his name out of the paper because he can't do anything right. He has the anti-Midas Touch. This guy is the poster boy for irresponsibility and I wouldn't have it any other way.

In a "cup is half-full" sort of way the Chargers don't have it that bad. Do they really want a guy like Peyton Manning as the representative for the ball club anyway? How boring is that guy? All he ever does is practice-practice-practice, and win-win-win. Who needs him? I say it's high time we open our eyes and appreciate the character of Ryan Leaf and be thankful for all the memories he has already given us.

And just think of all the directions his story could go from here. The plot twists are endless. What about an episode where Leaf goes to Spain to play in NFL Europe and violates his contract when he sustains another non-football injury by doubling as a matador? Maybe they could run an episode where Leaf finds out Beathard won't trade him because he is really Leaf's biological father? Perhaps he could protest Beathard's refusal to trade him by throwing the ball to the wrong team. No, I think that one would be a rerun.

My point is you couldn't write a better character if you tried. What incomparable drama we have been given and I'm sick and tired of it going unappreciated. So if Mrs. Leaf and I are the last ones left in poor Ryan's corner then so be it.

He may be the biggest disappointment in the history of the San Diego Chargers. He may be infantile. He may be selfish. He may even be a "crybaby." But darn it- he is our "crybaby" and I wouldn't trade him for the world.



ing to admit it, I can't help but argue that Ryan Leaf is the perfect message to anyone who takes football, or any other form of athletics too seriously. His behavior is the wake up call that has been long overdue to the sporting world. It is time we realize that athletes are not merely robots who perform on cue. They are people first and athletes second.



# Fans of the Week!

## ALPHA PHI



TARYN BAACKE

### *O'Connor continued from pg 15*

For O'Connor and the rest of the Toreros it was a season that had many memorable moments and many unforgettable finishes. Attempting to sum up the season O'Connor declared it, "Intense. It was an awesome season that started out really good. We started out 11-1, which is the best start in the team's history."

Along the way the Toreros upset two of the nation's top five teams in Santa Clara (ranked number one at the time) and Cal State Fullerton (ranked fourth), and climbed as high as fourth in the polls themselves. On the verge of making a memorable post-season run, the club hit the wall. Cross town rival San Diego State University canceled a late season game which forced the team to sit idle for two weeks. Senior goal keeper Matt Hall sustained a season ending wrist injury during the layoff and by that point any hopes of continuing the team's momentum was lost.

The Toreros could only look back and take pride in

what they had accomplished this season rather than focusing on what they had not. One such accomplishment is the WCC Player of the Year award which took O'Connor by surprise.

"I really didn't expect it. I was hurt for five games this year. I missed a couple league games actually, and I wasn't really expecting this at all. My stats weren't that good," O'Connor said.

Yet in the eyes of the WCC coaches, statistics do not do a player like him justice. O'Connor scored three goals and assisted on four others but there is not a statistic which measures leadership, which is something O'Connor says comes naturally to him.

"I kind of had to pick my spots, but I'd didn't really tell them what to do. I just lead by example because, I mean, we are all friends. It was really more about taking responsibility. There's other seniors that led the team and they are just as much captains as we were."

O'Connor does not hesitate when discussing the future of USD soccer. He humbly admits that his class of players will not

be the last to reach such striking achievements.

"They'll be good," O'Connor said of next year's team. "They're always going to be good because they recruit good players."

O'Connor may be reluctant to admit it, but his presence will be missed next fall on the soccer field. His four years at USD have garnered him one WCC Player of the Year award, one honorable mention to the All-WCC Conference team his freshman year, and an All-WCC Conference second team spot last season. This season O'Connor was the only Torero named to the All-Conference first team. After the loss to UCLA, the team headed home. For O'Connor it marks the end of an up and down season which will be his last under USD Coach Seamus McFadden, but he guarantees he is not done playing soccer.

"I'm going to try to play. I'll try out wherever I can. I love playing soccer. If I have too much free time on my hands I don't know what to do with myself."

### *Yanchulova continued from pg 17*

enough for second place in the West Coast Conference behind the 10th-ranked Pepperdine Waves.

Some of Yanchulova's personal records include being the Torero's all-time leader in kills and digs. She also owns the single season record for kills and attack attempts, and ranks second in digs.

To put Yanchulova's success into perspective, it should be noted that she is the only player in Torero history to be named to every single all-tournament team during her career at USD. This is a feat that is not likely to be repeated.

When summing up her ca-

reer at USD, Yanchulova refers to it as "a great experience." She has done everything she was asked to do and more.

She has been an absolute force for the Torero's as well as the West Coast Conference. Her work ethic and attitude are something to be commended. She is very humble and knows quite well that her team's accomplishments are far greater than her own.

"I'm just very lucky to be here in San Diego," Yanchulova said. "Everyone's been really good to me

More like San Diego is very lucky to have her.

## Register for the Vista.

**(To register you need Dr. David Sullivan to sign your add/drop slip before the fall semester ends.)**



# Drumroll please

Margie Pierce • Offbeat Editor

"Maybe it's not funny, but it's true. No one gives a shit but you." My friend laughs at me, because she says I have a song for every occasion. Like this Lagwagon song which sums up everything I have to say about the Hooligans, sorority girls, AS and the Vista. What you mean I haven't made any AS and Vista jokes yet this semester? Man am I slacking. I get so absorbed in talking about me that I forget the real purpose of this section.

First and most importantly I must address the issue of Jane Doe—I AM NOT JANE DOE! I have far better things to do than spend my time a) going to every USD sporting event in existence b) chatting about every USD sporting event in existence on [www.torerofans.com](http://www.torerofans.com) c) writing Vista articles about how I love going to every USD sporting event in existence and talking about it on [www.torerofans.com](http://www.torerofans.com). You know it is time to get a life when you achieve the honor of Fan of the Week, five or a thousand weeks in a row.

I'm not sure the exact number since my intramurals email hasn't come in this week and let me tell you, I can barely stand the anticipation. If it weren't for the IM and AS emails every week I would be at a loss of what to do with my life.

Forget that the emails contain the exact same information that AS and IM publish every week in the Vista, these mass emails keep people without friends, such as myself, feeling loved.

Doh! I guess this joke doesn't really hold much weight anymore since I just mentioned earlier how my friend makes fun of me. As it turns out, I exaggerate a lot in this column. I know this is

shocking to my readers, but the Hooligans really don't pat themselves on the back after games, I don't really have a blow up doll named Mr. Fluffy and despite the tabloid rumors, I never slept with Mike Ness—we're just good friends.

Or for those of you who don't understand my references, Chapter One: USD's obnoxious fans don't pat themselves on the BACK, my blow up doll's name is actually Bob and despite the talk show rumors, I would never sleep with any of the BackStreet Boys even if they weren't batting for the other team.

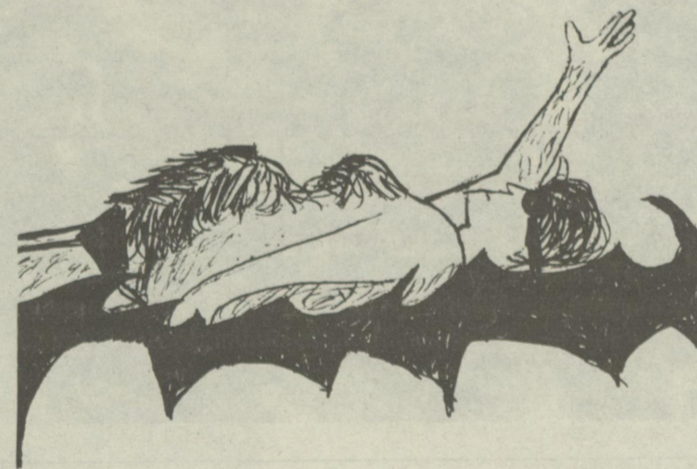
Which brings me to fourthly of all. Why is it that fourthly of all doesn't sound as cool as first of all?

Thirdly, (since there is no longer any chance of my getting anything in the proper order so close to finals,) the only thing friends and family are good for is a laugh. Unfortunately, my family is always laughing at ME:

Aaah! What? Thud, thud. I just hit a possum.

Which is why I have friends—so that I have someone to make fun of. Like my roommate who was so shaken up by a day in the Pierce household that she had to go out and buy three new pairs of Converse to console herself. That makes 20 folks. Count them—20! I guess it's cheaper than therapy, but how was I to know that not everyone's family jumps on the table during Thanksgiving dinner and belts out Offspring songs.

Thirdly, all my friends are good for is a laugh. All I'm good for to my friends is a laugh. Which is why when Margie the News Editor said you can't say "one-eyed monster" in a crime report. It's a penis—call a spade a shovel. It doesn't matter if he's playing



with the spade or poking the shovel—that's not news! Secondly this is why my friend skulked out of the room and took her "erotic" crime reports with her. Thirdly of all, if I'm not good for a laugh, I'm just not good. Integrity hurts.

First of all, I've only seen Fletch once and personally I was amused, but only slightly, because thirdly, all my friends are good for is a laugh. Once I had a friend and I thought he was hilarious until I saw Austin Powers and then I discovered Mike Meyers is hilarious and my friend is a parrot. That's what I "hella" think about Jane Doe.

Secondly of all I find it highly amusing that people get upset when I make fun of them. I wouldn't make fun of them if they didn't get upset. Thirdly, all I'm good for is a laugh. Third of all, my friends are only good for laughs. Secondly, this is why I only make fun of people I know. This is why when Urge first made fun of Offbeat I didn't give a shit, he wasn't worth my time. He still isn't worth my time, but my time is worth less. Now Urge says if he had known I had such

great taste in music, he would have never become the Urge. If I had known I had such great taste in music I would have started making fun of the Urge, much, much earlier.

My favorite thing about USD is going to a punk concert in Aromas. The band has to like you when you are the only one who is still there after they start playing. Moshing is a little hard to do by yourself though, and the last band didn't play the one song that I knew. Maybe they thought of a more uncomfortable place to have sex than the can—like the back of a Volkswagen.

Tenthly, I stalk more people in this world than I have ever talked to. Eighth of all, I don't really actually stalk anyone. I talk about stalking them, but I don't, because after I talk so much about stalking them I can't talk to them and I refuse to stalk anyone I don't talk to.

Seven, there is a very hot guy who lives on the third floor of my building. I met him in the elevator. We had a very in-depth conversation...about his hat...and his bald head. For once instead of being scared the groaning elevator would shut

down, I was hoping it would. But no, the stupid piece of crap works just fine when I'm not stuck on the elevator with scary old men with bad body odor, the only kind of man, I was beginning to suspect, that dwells in my building.

Eleven, I am very nasally oriented. Once I took up smoking for a day. I was very addicted. But then I remembered how this guy I once dated always wore this leather jacket that smelled like body odor and smoke, so I quit.

I hate nasty, smelly breath, which is why I chew a lot of gum. My roommate chews a lot of gum too, but she chews bubble gum. The pink kind, which she keeps in her car at all times and which works like a car freshener. Despite the fact that she has really cozy seat warmers that you just want to curl up in for hours and never leave, I don't think she'll ever be able to make out with a guy in her car. The problem is that right when they are both in the heat of the moment he'll smell the bubble gum and be reminded of the time when he was twelve and he tried to kiss a girl while he had a big glob of pink, gooey gum in his mouth and it got stuck in her hair and they had to chop off a chunk of her hair and she never spoke to him again.

Still eleven, sometimes I'll smoke when I already smell from slimy, sweaty guys without shirts dripping on me at concerts and parties.

Seven, eleven, tenthly of all. It's different when the guys without shirts wear deodorant or live on the third floor or chew bubble gum or suck Altoids. Once in the middle of class a guy offered me an Altoid. There is something just damned sexy about guys and mints. If I wasn't me, I would have jumped him.



I know all of the guys are tempted to stop reading now, but really you deserve to put up with my oohing and aahing. It's my way of avenging every girl who has ever had to put up with comments from her guy friends about some hot "rack," merely because she is comfortable in platonic relationships.

First and most importantly I AM NOT JANE DOE! a) I don't care about cross country b) I don't care about girls c) I would never say Scott Bergen is hot. If I did think he was hot I wouldn't say it, because then he would know I thought he was hot, which is against all the rules of playing hard to get. Which I do quite an impressive job of, don't you think. I mean it's not easy playing hard to get while simultaneously stalking people. If I didn't think Scott Bergen was hot, I wouldn't say it out of sarcasm, because that would be blatantly mean to insult the skinny little guy for something he can't help. If I did think of Scott Bergen I would rename him something far stupider sounding like Nipple Boy or Square Guy or Urge, but not Jane Doe, because it's just not original.

Not in a million. My friend, the one I so fondly named my old fogie cruiser after, predicted I would hook up with the Urge. People. Firstly, I AM NOT JANE DOE! a) I don't live my life in a PG-rated movie b) I don't have a life c) If I did have a life and I did live it in a PG-rated movie, it would be Mallrats and the guy on the third floor of my apartment building would be the one in the elevator scene s) this would make me Shannon Daugherty and that's just wrong g) we both like soccer players—in fact the Urge's soccer player is plastered all over the IM page under the title GIRLFRIEND. Now I'm not sure if this is to account for the fact that his friends don't really believe any girl would date him and therefore he needs the weekly confirmation of his manliness or to cover up the fact that his intramural job is completely expendable. t) I'm stalking his

roommate which isn't really hard to do since all of Greaser Tim's stalkers talk to me about stalking him and therefore I get all the goods without actually having to do any of the work. What I really need to do is start making a profit from my information. If you give me a buck, I'll tell you the model, make and year of his car. It might cost you extra if you want to know what color too.

It's like Matt Harrison, everyone and their brother knows the guy, but nobody knows they know the guy. I guess it's all a matter of having a cool nickname, but what would his be? The sometimes really grunge/punk/skater guy who other times dresses greasy/goth/disco fever guy? From here on out we just might as well refer to him as "The Guy."

Jane Doe, I am your father. First of second, is anyone else frightened by the fact that the bees outside the Caf eat meat. I had one carry away half my tuna fish sandwich once. The End.

"Skinhead, they call you Hooligan, just because you don't make any sense to them." The Hooligans would be cool if they used Dropkick Murphys' songs for their cheers. "Hey, hey (torero) heed the battle call, united we stand, divided we fall, together we are what we can't be alone..." Then again the Dropkick Murphys would not be cool if the Hooligans used their songs for cheers.

Why does our mascot have to be a guy in tights? Would a bull dog be scared of a bull fighter? If I ever saw the Torero's head in a dark alley I would be afraid, I'd probably run. I would want the bull dog to eat his face.

Thirdly of all, I'm really only good for a laugh. I crave any kind of attention whether it's positive or not. In fact, I don't really know what to do when people actually agree with me or like my articles or my music or me. I know what to do with people who don't like me and don't agree with me, I kill them off. He, he, he.

(Evil laugh.) Sometimes though killing them off backfires, because I lose the attention, so then I have to find new people who don't like me to harass me. Hence Jane Doe. I really love people who talk about me, except when they attempt to refer to me as Ms. Pierce, I really hate that. Four. I've always wanted to walk into a room and overhear people talking shit about me. It would amuse me, but apparently I'm not amusing enough to be so amused.

NINE. Have you ever sat in a class staring out the window and turned your attention back to the professor to find that when you thought you were ignoring the professor, he was actually ignoring you, directing all of his questions to the three people in the corner of the room who liked to talk? I have and let me tell you, I find man breasts very disturbing.

Once while swimming I looked over to see someone doing the backstroke and I almost choked on water and drowned because I thought the person had lost the top part of her bikini, but it turned out to be a guy, but not the guy from STAR. Men should be more aware of how much support is proper for their bodies.

9. Have you ever sat in a class staring out the window and turned your attention back to the professor only to remember that you were staring out the window in order to keep from vomiting at the way he or she looked in tight jeans or sweats or spandex?

This tastes like grandma—I want more! If one must be a parrot at least be a bird who watches shows that are actually funny, so that people laugh even if they don't understand the context of the joke. She is an ugly woman, but an adorable monkey.

two. do you notice how two names recur throughout this page? This is because they are the only two people who I know read Offbeat if they can. They both read Offbeat because they think it sucks. They both think they

# Jane Doe

## Hoping to survive the millennium

Well, it's December and that means two things: turkeys everywhere are converting to Christianity after having been saved through the massacre that is Thanksgiving and Christmas shopping is now in its full disgusting, crowd-ridden swing. I am a big fan of the turkey, not of the shopping.

I am gonna keep this one short as I have to start making up for the months of drinking and debauchery that has been this semester for me. Finals are upon us and I want to leave you all with a little Christmas shopping advice.

Men, you do not belong in any store with a country theme unless they sell sausage (even if you are buying for iheri). Examples: Bath and body-no; Trader Joe's and Hillshire Farms-yes. It is a simple formula. Follow it. Do not let them tell you, ino, no, we have a men's section. If it is country and there is no sausage, it is all women's.

Women, you do not belong in any store where they sell vibrating chairs (unless you are buying for

ihimi). I highly recommend trying out the Swedish posture-paedic chair, but ladies: get in there, buy something and get out. Women have their sanctuaries (think of the mass female bathroom exoduses) and men have theirs. Men's sanctuaries are The Sharper Image, Brookstone and ESPN the Store. Leave them to us and everyone will be happy.

With that, I bid you all adieu for the semester. This is our last Vista for the millennium and with a tear and a whimper, I click isavei for the last time until February. But what if my computer won't work because of Y2K [think of ominous music in the background now]. Being the 21st century, I fully expect space ships and little robots like in Buck Rogers in the 21st Century to be popping up in the next month and a half or so. I can't believe I just made a millennium reference.

I have to go. Spoon and I have a really nice bunker picked out in Idaho for when civilization crumbles next month. It'll be so romantic. I hope your Christmas and New Year's plans shape up and your bank doesn't crash. See you in February.

can do better. They both have large followings of people they provide sexual favors for in exchange for saying that Offbeat sucks. Yikes did I say that? LIBEL, LIBEL, LIBEL. Unfortunately, no amount of sex or sex jokes can make Offbeat funny.

I was addicted to www.torerofans.com once, but that was before I met this "shy" friend who asks waiters to take off their clothes and asks the AS secretaries if people actually apply for directorships. "What does AS do?" she asked. I told her to

check out www.torerofans.com. She thought that was sad. My "shy" friend gave me back the sign I gave her in class that read, "Please flush toilet before leaving." I admitted I had a problem, now I'm addicted to Egyptian Rat Screw. It's a brutal game, Shy Girl plays it, Roommate plays it, my brother plays it, the guy we adopted into our family, just so that we can make fun of the ugly hat he likes to wear, plays it. Sometimes I win, but if I lose, I always take someone down with me.



# The new kid on the beat

Kevin R. Fry • Staff Writer

## A night on the town

Dance clubs were invented by the same people that herd cattle. A dance club and a barn are practically identical. In a barn, you have many animals placed in close quarters. In a dance club, you have people in close quarters, wearing skin-tight pants that at one point in time belonged to cattle.

I went to a club last week. It was not the first time I had been to a club, but I had never before been to a club with such a diverse group of people.

There was a group of girls that appeared to be freshmen in college standing in front of me in line. They were all dressed in fluorescent mini skirts, and had about a pound of eye shadow on their distorted faces (I had to look at my watch to make sure it wasn't Halloween).

The girls were showing off their elaborate vocabulary while they conversed with each other. I had never heard any group of people manage to incorporate four letter words into every sentence that they spoke, with the exception of Martin Scorsese gangster films, until listening to these girls.

The owners of dance clubs are obviously in competition. They try to see how long they can make people wait outside in the cold before letting them come inside, to the poorly ventilated atmosphere that they provide, after the dance club go-ers pay six dollars each and have their I.D.s. verified by a guy that couldn't make it into the NFL.

Once you're inside the club the first thing you learn to avoid is touching any railing. My unlucky friend didn't look at what he was touching while he was walking up the stairs, and accidentally placed his hand on a thick wad of red bubble gum. His exasperated shriek barely rose above the techno-remix that was being blasted out of ten large speakers that were located on the

outskirts of the dance floor.

The dance floor offered a variety of people dancing in unique ways. I found it next to impossible to dance because there was no room to make any sudden movements. I tried to find a room to go to that didn't have such a chaotic atmosphere, but finally realized the only solitary place in the club was a bathroom stall.

No, seriously, clubs aren't that bad but you always have to keep in mind that you will have to mingle with large groups of people. You also will never have to worry about bringing food because free gum is provided on all the banisters.

## Car dealerships offer much more than bottom line

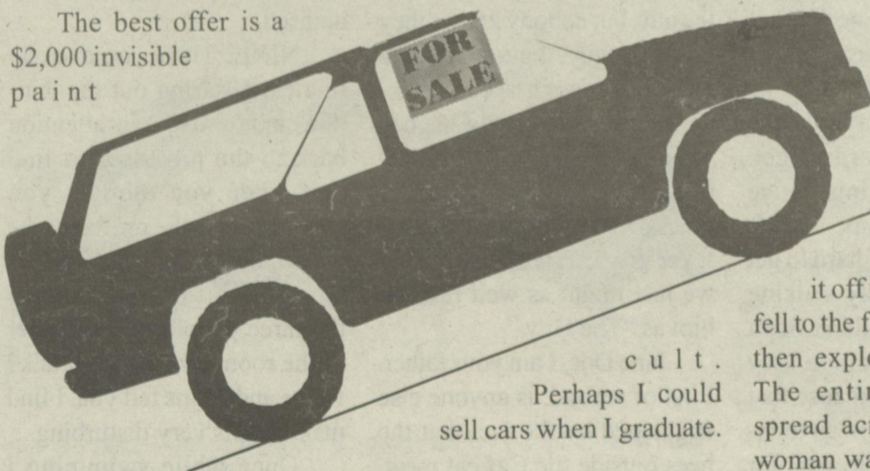
The time has arrived to buy a new car! You have saved money, viewed numerous commercials, talked with friends and have decided to go to a car lot for your new vehicle. Car dealerships use many ploys to get people to hurry to their dealership. Everyone has heard the term "for a limited time" (which means until they sell all the outdated vehicles on their lots) or "free hot dogs on Saturday only."

Some car dealerships have a fine print under their ads for free hot dogs that stipulate that you have to purchase your new car, in cash, before you can receive ketchup and mustard for your hot dog. A few weeks ago, I decided to take advantage of the limited time hot dog lunch offer, and went to a dealership to see all the "limited time offers" I could take advantage of.

I had heard many stories about people who felt the car dealer who sold them their car had ripped them off by tricking them into buying things that they didn't need. Car dealers have come up with many

warranties and additional items that I have questioned the value of. For \$500, you can purchase a five-year warranty that will guarantee your car will not need an oil change more often than every 3,000 miles. You can get a free car wash at a local gas station if you pay the manufacturer's retail price of the vehicle without arguing.

The best offer is a \$2,000 invisible paint



protectant that ensures your car's paint will not rust. If you purchase the protectant you may be astonished at how often the dealer will say "Thank you God ... I am going to go to church more often!"

As soon as I stepped out of my vehicle I was offered a hot dog that looked similar to the special doggie treats my next door neighbor gives to her puppy. I took the hot dog in hand and was introduced to Wade, a car dealer who worked part-time to support his modeling career. Wade almost talked me into buying a car, but as he explained to me that he could not go any lower than the manufacturer's suggested retail price, his nose grew at an alarmingly fast rate. I didn't have time to move my head before his nose hit me in the eye with such force that it knocked me to the ground.

I ended up spending the remainder of the afternoon in the hospital, viewing re-runs of the Jerry Springer show in my hospital bed, with only one functioning eye. The most positive part of losing the vision in my eye was that I no longer needed

a car because my eyesight is never going to function properly again.

In all honesty, car dealers are very hard working individuals, who are in a very difficult line of work, who are good, trustworthy people. Jeez ... typing that last sentence was not diffi-

cult. Perhaps I could sell cars when I graduate.

## Tip your sky cap well

As soon as vacationers arrive at the airport, their first objective is to get rid of, or "check," their luggage, which they stayed up all night packing. Airlines offer to check your bags inside the airport. However, the customers usually have to wait until they grow a beard that reaches the floor before they are helped. In an effort to handle the great mass of luggage airlines have to deal with, they also provide sky caps who can also check luggage, but in a shorter amount of time.

I will be perfectly honest: skycaps scare everyone. How can a traveler not be the least bit intimidated by a man (or in some cases a woman) who can barely pronounce basic English words such as "thank you," "flight delayed" or my personal favorite, "you are checking your bag with the wrong airline."

Skycaps have the power to send your bag to a foreign country if they are unhappy with the tip that you give them, or perhaps if you do not say

thank you after they help you. Any traveler knows their vacation would be one giant headache if they lost their luggage, unless they are going to spend the duration of their time sitting on a nude beach.

After dealing with skycaps a traveler has to go through security.

The last time I was going through security a woman in front of me was having her bag checked. The person who was checking her bag accidentally knocked

it off the counter. The bag fell to the floor like a brick, and then exploded upon impact. The entire bag's contents spread across the floor. The woman was very embarrassed because a box of contraceptives was in the middle of the pile. Everyone within one mile of the airport appeared to be staring at the woman after seeing the box. Her face turned a bright red. After witnessing the incident I decided she probably wished she had left her personal items with the skycap.

The flight to my destination, California, was relatively uneventful. The skycap must have been pleased with the tip I gave, because my bags were the first to come out onto the luggage carousel. I was thrilled that my luggage had arrived safely. I decided that it didn't hurt that I had talked to the skycap in Spanish when I had checked my bag.

No, seriously, working in an airport would be a very challenging job, a job where you do not get enough appreciation for the work that you do. I decided the next time I go to the airport I will check my bag inside, to give the sky caps some relief from their heavy workload. I will also make sure I bring a razor to cut the beard I will undoubtedly grow while I am waiting in line.



# NOFX proves that longer is better

Greg Pawlik • Staff Writer

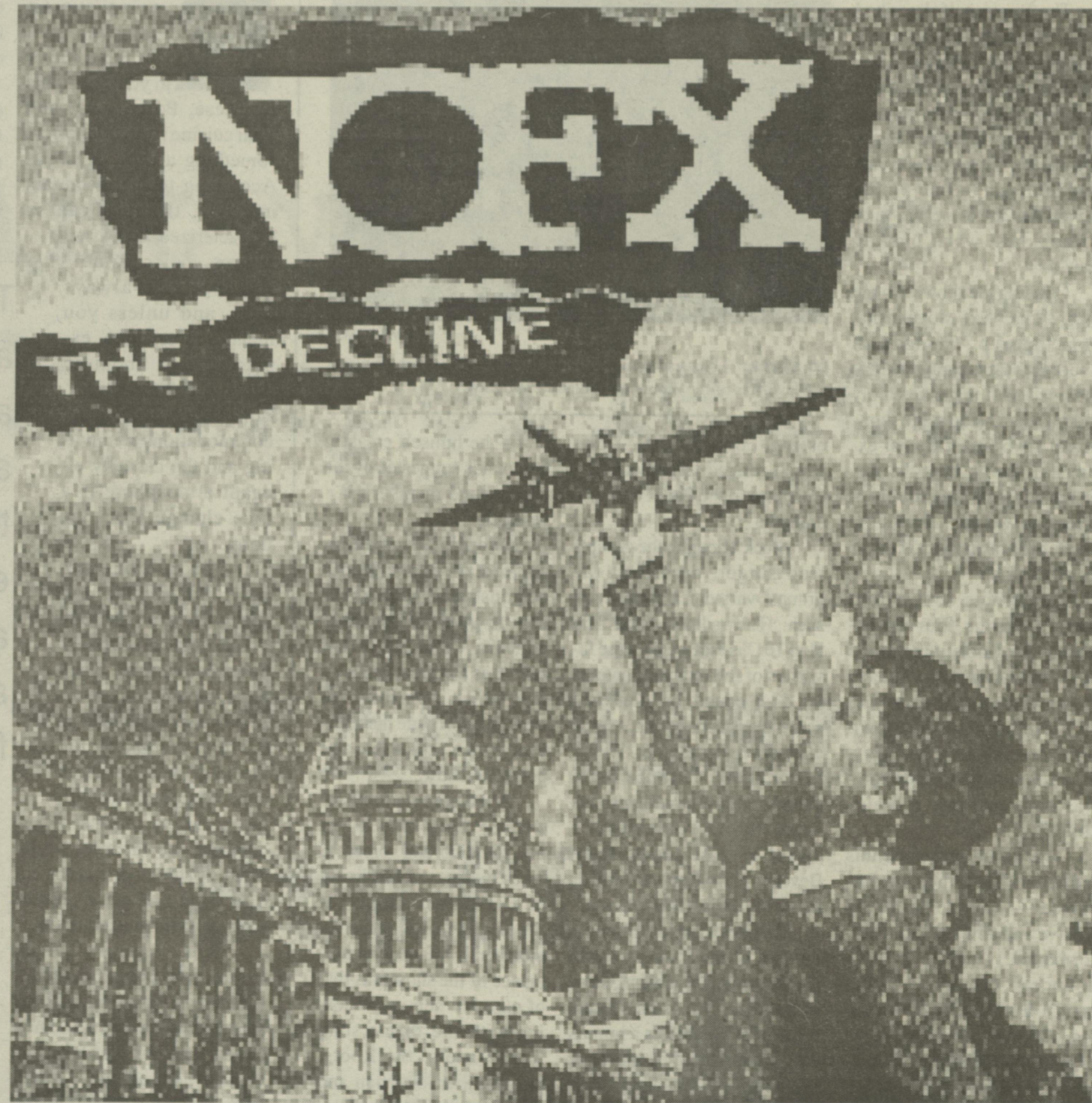
*The Decline*, NOFX's recent Fat Wreck Chords release is something very unique - fusing a mixture of their familiar punk-rock sound and style with an untraditional format. *The Decline* is a single twenty-minute song, interweaving a number of dismal, thought-provoking narratives that form a composite picture of a contemporary America deep in decline.

This theme illustrates a present day society characterized by governmental abuse of power and dishonesty, exploring the relationship between the haves vs. the have-nots, and a neatly packaged hegemonic message that keeps the masses comfortably uninformed and unaware.

NOFX has established its identity by sticking to consistent musical formulas while simultaneously incorporating unconventional and trend setting techniques into the punk rock genre. *The Decline* follows in this tradition. All of the diverse trademark NOFX components are apparent in one form or another, each providing different pieces to a puzzle that repeatedly and smoothly changes styles like only NOFX can.

The song boasts the characteristic standout, consistently transforming vocals; surging, powerful guitar chords offset by light and pleasant melodies moments later; blaring yet melodic horn incorporations; and the always engaging harmonies that have long been a part of the unique NOFX experience.

These transitions and alternating tempos are even more effective developing within a twenty minute piece and further showcase the band's quality musicianship and song-writing experience. This lengthy format also adds considerable strength and clarity to the message that NOFX is trying to hammer home, rather than the sporadic, four minute long so-



cietal critiques mixed between light-hearted subject matter that is characteristic of past albums.

The biting satirical lyricism of the song/EP provides a straightforward, multi-layered view of a capitalistic society that is beginning to crumble. The verses convey a sense of despair, and draw attention to the many problems emergent in society. They personify the "it's-not-my-problem" perspective that runs rampant in the 90's, choosing escape and avoidance rather than action.

"I wish I had a shilling / for

every senseless killing / I'd buy a government / America's for sale and you can get a good deal on it and make a healthy profit / or maybe tear it apart", proclaims one verse with a format and sound reminiscent of something from the Beatles.

Another high powered verse exclaims, "The human existence is failing. / Resistance essential. / The future written off. / The odds are astronomically against us, / only a moron and genius would fight a losing battle against the super-ego when giving in is so damn

comforting."

The final verse sends the overall message home with a powerful summation of the prevailing American perspective, "And so we go on with our lives, / we know the truth but prefer lies. / Lies are simple. / Simple is bliss. / Why go against tradition when we can admit defeat. / Live in decline." This clever and powerful lyricism should be a calling of sorts to our generation to wake up, look around, and become aware of what's going on, rather than believing what we

are fed, or worse yet, believing nothing at all.

This latest project from NOFX most definitely deserves an attentive ear and an open mind. If you can look beyond the rather steep price tag for a one song EP (between \$8 and \$10), you will discover the cleverness of this twenty-minute narrative. In our age of CD burners and MP3 technology, it shouldn't be too hard to get a hold of a discounted copy of *The Decline*, just in time to add a little food for thought to the holiday banquet.



# Step into the realm the Roots live

Katie McDonald • Staff Writer

The Roots, self described "pioneers" of the hip hop scene, performed last Friday night at the Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach. A sold out performance with over six hundred fans in attendance, the group played a two hour set— one which proved that the Roots are truly at their best when playing live."All

Opening the show with the song, "The Next Movement," from their l.p., Things Fall Apart, the Roots captivated the audience with their incredibly energized and loud stage show. Group keyboardist Kamal explained: "Sorry 'bout the ear-drums but y'all need to recognize who we are. The sh\*\* might kill you but you'll never forget me, huh?"

Combining songs from their previous four cd releases, the Roots maintained their reputation as a "diverse group where everyone is kind of a producer in their own right, so each song has a different foundation...each song was someone else's brain-child."

The group presented this individuality in their performances— each doing an extensive and powerful solo performance. ?uestlove (pronounced "Questlove"), the band's drummer, began the solos, playing an impressive set of beats on the drums with intermittent vocalizing from fellow band members. Following ?uestlove, Kamal, the keyboardist, played an inter-



ERIC WILLIAMS

**In style:** "The tradition of our 'Hip Hop 101' is that we play the favorites of the moment..." Black Thought

esting compilation— one which ranged from Mozart's Concerto to the Pink Panther's anthem.

Black Thought, the group's lead singer, described the groups' varied performance as such: "The tradition of our 'Hip Hop 101' is that we play the favorites of the moment... where we do a couple of joints and some classic material... some classical material, too. We try to mix it up." And the Roots did mix it up— covering songs from Harold Faltermeyer's "Axel F" (the theme from Beverly Hills Cop) to Grandmaster Flash's "White Lines."

Perhaps the most interesting part of the show was with the amazing turn table mastery of Scratch. The band's vocal turntablist, Scratch is a human d.j., mimicking the sounds of actual record scratching. During his performance, Scratch was challenged by ?uestlove and Kamal to a literal "spin-

off"— he himself creating the sounds suggested by the fellow band member's d.j. gestures.

Overall an amazing performance, the Roots demonstrated they know how to give an incredible concert. The Belly Up served as a perfect venue— one which was intimate enough to provide the audience with a personable and powerful show.

Although faced with incredibly long lines to get into the club and forced to listen to the awful stylizing of D.J. Super Mario (at times jeered by audience members), the general ambiance of the show was that of pure hip hop joy. Closing with the theme song from Cheers, the Roots, through their devotion and passion to the hip hop scene, will soon be a group that everyone knows the name of.

## Add flavor to your life at Rapongi's in La Jolla

Stacey Kubasak • Staff Writer

**R**apongi's in La Jolla will give you more flavor in your life. This Japanese, Polynesian, and Thai cuisine restaurant offers something a little different. According to the restaurant manager, the food can be characterized as "Asian fusion cuisine". Rapongi's is always busy, and unless you make a reservation, expect to wait about an hour on a weekend night. Still, the service and accommodations are inviting and the casually elegant atmosphere is a nice change from the norm.

The mix of Japanese, Polynesian and Thai style give the food a flair you've never experienced before. They have an entire list of Asian tapas or appetizers that they are known for, including their crab stack tapa. Rapongi's also offers a variety of sushi to accentuate the Japanese style. They pride themselves on their meat and game entrees such as their roasted duck.

Not only does Rapongi's have food that veers from the norm, but they also have great drinks. They have a full bar and have invented the "saketini", which is a sake martini not to be missed. For this reason and many more, Rapongi's res-

taurant is a fun place to go to have a few drinks or relax over a nice dinner.

In addition, Rapongi's currently has a lunch promotion going on called "Tapas on Time". You can choose from any of their tapas or appetizers at lunch an they are

The service  
and  
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a nice change  
from the norm.

guaranteed to be at your table in ten minutes or they are free. But before you leave Rapongi's, you should save some room for dessert, they are known for their Tahitian bananas.

Rapongi's is open on weekdays for lunch from 11:30 a.m.-3:30p.m. and for dinner from 5:30-10p.m. On weekends they stay open until 11p.m. For reservations call (858)551-5252.

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# Don't believe the Hype!

*RuffRyders prove everyone wrong!*

**Noah Stanley** • Intramurals and Recreation

The Men's Target Flag Football Championships came down to a game of realist and not-so-realists. The realist, the RuffRyders, knew they needed to come prepared and play one of the best games of their season. The not-so-realists, Phi Kap I, decided showing up was enough to win. Instead of coming prepared, I imagine they spent their time cutting their names out of the Vista and showing them to Bullet at the Pennant. In what should have been the Phi Kaps coming out party, the RuffRyders finally got the Hokie loss off their back.

Early on it was RuffRyders setting the tone scoring on their first possession on a AJ Stone pass to Vincente Robinson. The Phi Kap offense that was plagued by dropped passes and Rob Humkey sacks went down two touchdowns right before the end of half. Still confident, the PKT's machinelike offense

drove the field for a half-ending score and important extra-point.

The second half began with another Phi Kap touchdown giving them a 13-12 lead. Down a point, Hector Rivera and squad marched down for another score led by the play of Diron Mobley to take a 18-13 lead. Not fazed a bit, Phi Kaps answered in four plays. The Matt Cooley to Jeff Pritchard connection was functioning again. With time running down under two minutes the Phi Kaps now had a 19-18 lead.

Knowing the RuffRyders held their destiny in their hands they prepared for one last drive to victory. Everyone assumed it would be a long hard fought drive with several players making key plays. Nope, on their first play Stone threw up one of his patented "high balls, do not call them ducks" towards 6'-2" Sean Henessy and de-

fender 5'-9" Liam Hyland. Hyland got up to defend the ball, but like a ostrich in flight, Henessy tipped the ball, contorted his body, tipped the ball three more times and ran safely into the endzone for an 80 yard touchdown. Knowing the score, the Ryders went for two and converted giving them a 26-19 lead.

With just over a minute left, Phi Kaps made some plays and put themselves in position to score. After a second attempt at the corner a Cooley pass got past Henessy and into the hands of a Phi Kap receiver for six points. In an embarrassing moment for all, one Phi Kap player cheered and mocked the opponent saying "scoreboard baby" not realizing the score was still 26-25 in favor of the



IMREC

Hector River (bottom right) and the RoughRyders look fly for their championship photo after defeating Phi Kap I 26-25.

Ruffryders. It came time for the extra-point attempt and in a bold move, Phi Kap I decided to go for the win and went for two. Cooley went to the same play they just scored with, but Mobley was all over it running it back for a defensive conversion and ending the game.

There you have it, the RuffRyders had overcome their loss to the Hokies and finally

earned some respect... for now. Phi Kaps, you should be proud in having two solid teams this year.

Thanks to all the officials and scorekeepers who worked the Target flag football season. Erik Nagel, Russ Flynn, and Matt Missick earn top football official honors this semester, while Aaron Gruchow wins most entertaining honors.



This week's Domino's "Sportsperson" of the Week is: Hector Rivera. As much as his teams fall short of his high expectations, Hector's squads always show up with the right kind of attitude. They play hard and play fair. When there's a problem, they talk to the officials (not yell) and treat the other squads with respect. It should be noted that Hector's squad did wins men's football this year.

This concludes the Domino's "Sportsperson" of the Week for this semester. Participate in IMs next semester and you might bring home a large two topping pizza from Domino's!

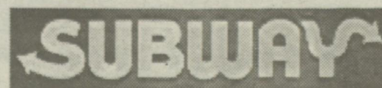
**Women's Water Polo Club  
is back next semester!**

**Those interested in playing should  
contact Gary Becker at 260-4276**

## Target Football's Nestle Crunch Play of the Week

Two more 10 pound Nestle Crunch Bars were handed out in Target's Flag Football. The first went to Laura Rovick's A-Team. Despite having a rough regular season with very few games, the A-Team was impressive in their loss coming up with some of the most exciting plays of the day.

The second was split between Diron Mobley and Sean Henessy. Henessy made a juggling 80 yard touchdown catch, that only a wacko could make. Mobley sealed the championship with a game ending interception. Congratulations to all of the Crunch Bar winners!



**game of the week**

Two weeks ago the Tacklers took care of business by beating the A-Team in the women's Target Flag Football finals.

This week we feature Men's 3x3 Hoops. The winner of the 10:30 match between Stadium and Team Katie/Afgany will go home with a free Subway Platter from Subway!

USD IM/Rec would like to thank Subway for a whole decade of support!



# The Panthers crush champs

Rob Humkey • Soccer

The last few weeks the closeness in tournament play has continued from the first few rounds. In the last of the qualifying games for entry into the women's final the Speedsters and the Kickballs faced off. This game was particularly close and went down to the wire as the Kickballs won the game 3-2 in the first ever intramural shootout.

On the guy's side the Phi Kapps played the Hurricanes while the Tortfeasors played the Pink Fluffy Bunnies for trips to the final four of men's IM Soccer. In the first game the Phi Kapps came out strong beating a good Hurricanes team 3-0. The Tortfeasors then took the field to play the Pink Fluffy Bunnies. Led by the goal scoring wizard Toffer, the Tortfeasors cruised to an 8-1 victory.

The semis were set, Phi Kappa Theta vs the Hooligans and the Tortfeasors vs Delta Tau Delta. The teams took the field on November 18 for trips to the final showdown. In the first game the Phi Kapps came out strong as they blasted their way into the finals with a huge 6-1 win over the tournament favorites the Hooligans. Led by

Moghan Lyons the Phi Kapps looked prepped to win it all.

In the second game the Tortfeasors played the Delts. Needless to say all of lip big Mike Ghilardi could sling wasn't enough to get the Delts another lucky win. The Delts were put out to the curb 10-1 by the Tortfeasors.

The finals went down Tuesday, November 23. First in the men's final the newly favored Phi Kapps led by huge tournament victories were playing another good, but unchallenged team in the Tortfeasors. This game was played close, but again clutch goals by George and Toffer sealed a suprising victory for the Tortfeasors 4-2 over Phi Kappa Theta.

With that finished the women took the field to decide the women's title. In this game the defending champs, the Kickballs, played the top seed in the tournament, the Pink Panthers. The game started close, but was then taken over by the superb play of Tiana Phillips, who had 6 goals in final game to lead a balanced Pink Panther's attack. The Panthers rolled while beating the old champs in convincing fashion 10-2.



IMREC

Captain Laura Rovick (top left) and the A-Team (A.A.) showcased the future of women's football at USD, but lost the championship.



IMREC

Back to back Champions, the Bombers, celebrate after crushing Panthers by over 20 runs. Kylee Hobb and team now join three other squads who won back-to-back titles during the decade.

## Call it destiny

Noah Stanley • IMRec

The women's Target flag football championships came down to two squads who with very different stories.

The Tacklers had experienced players like Brianna Barr and Catherine Fontecha. During the season the Tacklers had played three actual games and went 2-0-1. The A-Team had Hannibal, Face, B.A. and Murdock, a crack-commando unit experienced in covert operations, but not very talented in flag football. With the main characters out of it, Laura Rovick took command of the A-Team and put together one of the best women's football teams in years. What the A-Team lacked was playing time, they had only had one real game during the season, a loss to the Tacklers.

With the stage set as the "Real Championship" the teams took the field. Despite the "I pity da fool" taunts from A-Team member Courtney Miller, the Tacklers scored early and often. After a Barr touchdown run on the first drive, Fontecha returned a misguided A-Team pass for another score.

During their second drive the A-Team began to put things together. After they completed their first pass to either Andrea Machado or Lindsey Cook, team captain Rovick could be heard muttering, "I love it when a plan comes together." Unfortunately



IMREC

After a solid season, the Tacklers pose for a photo before winning the women's championship.

for the A-Team, she didn't have plans for what to do with Tacklers' Taylor Flatley and Lisa Christensen. Their defensive pressure along with Rachel's persistence forced the A-Team to quickly surrendered the ball back to the Tacklers. Professing "We ain't afraid to fly and we ain't afraid of no monkeys either" Miller, Julia O'Dea and LaNetra (with her funkdaified southern-playalisticcadilacmusic hat) watched as Michelle scored yet another Tackler touchdown right before halftime.

The halftime show was provided by A-Team's own Kristi and Andrea and Tackler's Emily Gibbons and Annie. During the break,

A-Team captain Rovick insisted that the refs were "on the Jazz man" and therefore made it impossible for her squad to win.

The second half saw some solid drives by both teams, but the game had already been decided. In the end the Tacklers experience overcame the youth of the A-Team. Final score 22-0 Tacklers. We look forward to these teams, the law school squad and Marya's team coming back for solid seasons next year!

Note: it was later discovered that the A-Team wanted to be called A.A. instead, but we decided not to upset Mr. T and stick with the A-Team name.

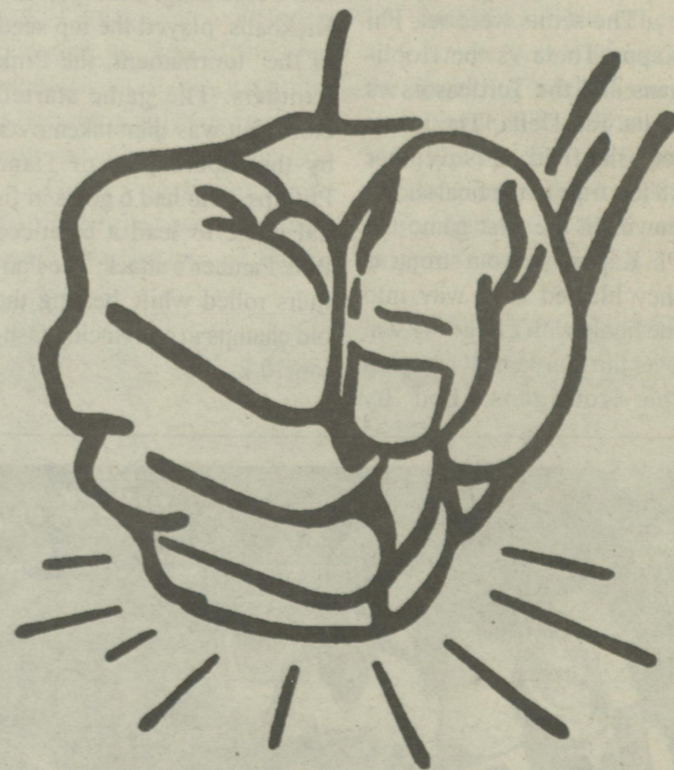


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